AGENDA PAPERS

Te Runanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau

AUCKLAND CONSERVATION BOARD

AGENDA FOR THE 169TH MEETING OF THE
AUCKLAND CONSERVATION BOARD
TO BE HELD AT
PŪKOROKORO MIRANDA SHOREBIRD CENTRE
283 EAST COAST ROAD, PŪKOROKORO MIRANDA
ON WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 10AM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Repeka	Geoge-Koteka	Board Member
Nerissa	Henry	Board Member
Mervyn	Kerehoma	Ngāti Whātua rōpū representative*
‘Ema	Latu	Board Member
Shane	Lavery	Board Member
Alan	Goldman	Board Member
Tori	Ngataki	Tāmaki Waiohua rōpū representative*
Gael	Ogilvie	Board Member
Joe	Pihema	Board Member
Chris	Severne	Board Member
Kiri	Toki	Board Member
Fred	Wilson	Marutūāhu rōpū representative*

*Positions provided for under the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014

Auckland Conservation Board Formal Meeting
to be held at Pūkorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre
283 East Coast Road, Pūkorokoro Miranda.
on Wednesday 10 September 2025 at 10am

Action

D	Decision Required
A	Advice Required
I	Information Only

KAUPAPA / AGENDA					
#	**Time**	**Timatanga mo te hui/Topic**	**Speaker/Lead**	**Action**	**Page**
	9.00	*Optional* – Guided tour shorebird centre	Keith Woodley		
9.50am Morning Tea Break 10 mins					
	10.00	**Whakawhanaungatanga** Welcome and Introductions	Chair	I	
1	10.30	Meeting Administration Pt 1 1. Apologies 2. Confirm agenda 3. Conflicts of Interest	Chair	I/A	 2 3
2	10.45	Public Forum	Chair	I	
3	11.00	Presentation: Naturalist Trust	Keith Woodley	I	
4	11.30	Presentation: Seabird Trust	Chris Gaskin	I	
5	12.00	Update on Hauraki Gulf marine protection legislation and implementation	Kirsty Prior	I	4-25
6	12.30	Fast Track Responses Process	Marie Burton (DOC)	I	
1.00pm Break for lunch (30 mins)					
7	1.30	Election of Chair and Deputy Chair		A	26-27
8	1.40	Departmental Reports - Operations Director's Report - Operations Districts Reports - Statutory and RMA Report	Alex Rogers Ops Managers John Galilee	I	28 30 41
9	2.15	Draft Annual Report 2024-2025 To approve	Chair	A	44
10	2.30	Draft Annual Workplan 2025-2026 To Approve	Chair	A	82
2.45pm Working Afternoon Tea					
11	2.45	Aotea advocacy update and next steps	Chair	I	90
12	3.00	Meeting Administration Pt 2 1. Previous meeting minutes/ actions arising 2. Confirmation of Correspondence 3. Financial Report 4. Liaison Updates	Chair	A	118 127 128 131
	3.45	**Karakia whakawatea**	Chair	I	
Te mutunga o te hui/Meeting Close 3.45 pm					

Board Conservation Board Meeting No. 169	Agenda Item: 1

A BOARD CONSERVATION BOARD
REGISTER OF INTERESTS
and
IDENTIFICATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

For meeting on 10 September 2025

Please use this form to update your register of interests and to note any actual or perceived Conflict of Interest with regard to any agenda item for this meeting

Name	
Register of Interests update Identification of any actual or perceived conflict of interest with regard to any agenda item	…… …… …… …… …… ……
Value of any conflict (If applicable)	
Signed (ACB member)	
Date	
* Action Taken (If necessary)	
*Reviewed by (Chair, Stat Man, BSO, etc)	

*To be completed by Chair, SM or BSO

DOC- 2969085

Auckland Conservation Board Meeting No. 169	Agenda Item: 5

REPORT

Meeting Date: 10 September 2025

Prepared By: John Galilee, Statutory Manager

Subject: **Update on the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill and its implementation**

Strategic Priority for the ACB and/or DOC	Marine protection is a high priority conservation outcome in the Board's Annual Work Plan 2025/2026 (subject to approval at the Board's 10 September 2025 meeting). Specific actions include: • Advocate for increased marine protection, including the protection of seabirds and their habitats (Action 2A). • Support implementation of *Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change Plan* (Action 2B).
Recommendation or Action Required	It is recommended that the Board: a) **Note** the contents of this paper.
Context	Implementation of *Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change Plan* is a priority for the Department of Conservation (DOC). Establishing a network of new marine protected areas in the Hauraki Gulf has been a principal focus for DOC's work to date. The network will be established using bespoke legislation. The Auckland and Waikato Conservation Boards jointly wrote to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Conservation on 23 June 2025 encouraging them to pass the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill. Since then the Bill passed through the Committee of the Whole stage in Parliament on 21 August and is now awaiting its third reading. The Board received a presentation from Kristy Prior, Operations Manager Marine, at its meeting on 4 June 2025. A copy of the presentation Kirsty Prior spoke to is **attached** for reference. Under this agenda item, Kirsty will provide a more detailed update on DOC's preparations for implementation of the new legislation. More information about DOC's work can be viewed online: https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/revitalising-the-gulf/

Hauraki Gulf Marine Park

Ko te Pataka kai o Tīkapa Moana / Te Moanaui ā Toi

Auckland Conservation Board, June 2025

Kirsty Prior, Operations Manager, Marine



Diver with Fish . *Photo: © Monique Ladds*

Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

A taonga in trouble



State of our Gulf reports

- The Hauraki Gulf Forum commissions a report every three years
- Reports have consistently shown continual decline in health

The Sea Change Plan

- Released in 2016 by an independent Stakeholder Working Group
- Over 180 recommendations
- DOC and FNZ supported development

Revitalising the Gulf

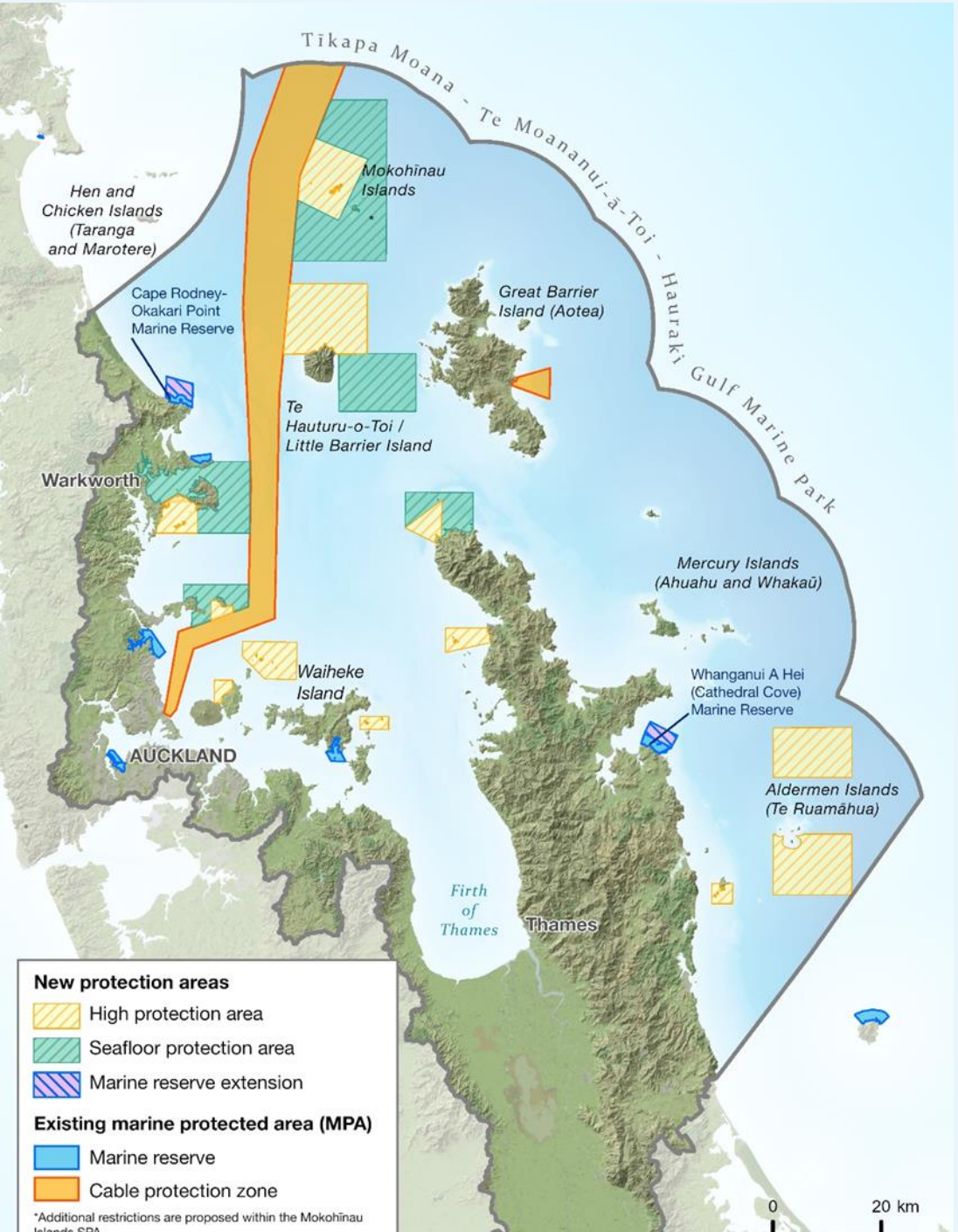
- Released in 2021 by Ministers
- Actions Government will take to improve health of the Gulf

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Revitalising the Gulf:
eight workstreams



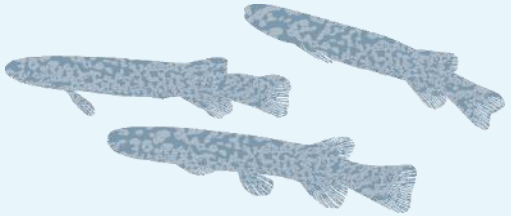


Marine Protection

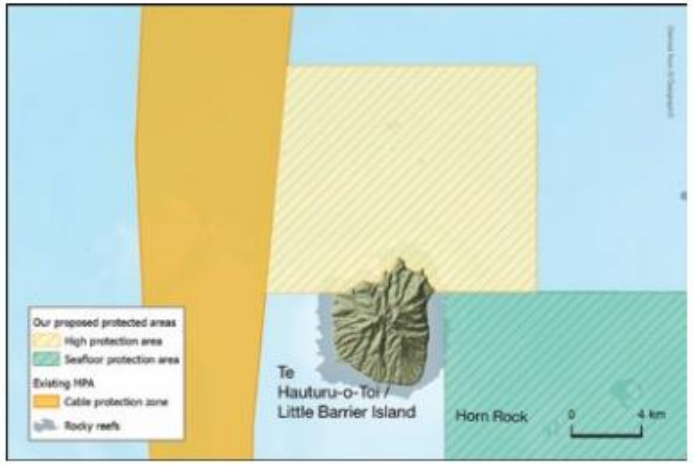
Hauraki Gulf/Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill

- 19 new Marine Protected Areas

- By 2030 outcomes are expected to include:
  - Increase snapper density by 400%
  - Increase rock lobster biomass of 20%
  - Reduction of kina barrens by 30%
  - Recovery of sensitive or vulnerable habitats



Each Marine Protected Area has specific ecological objectives

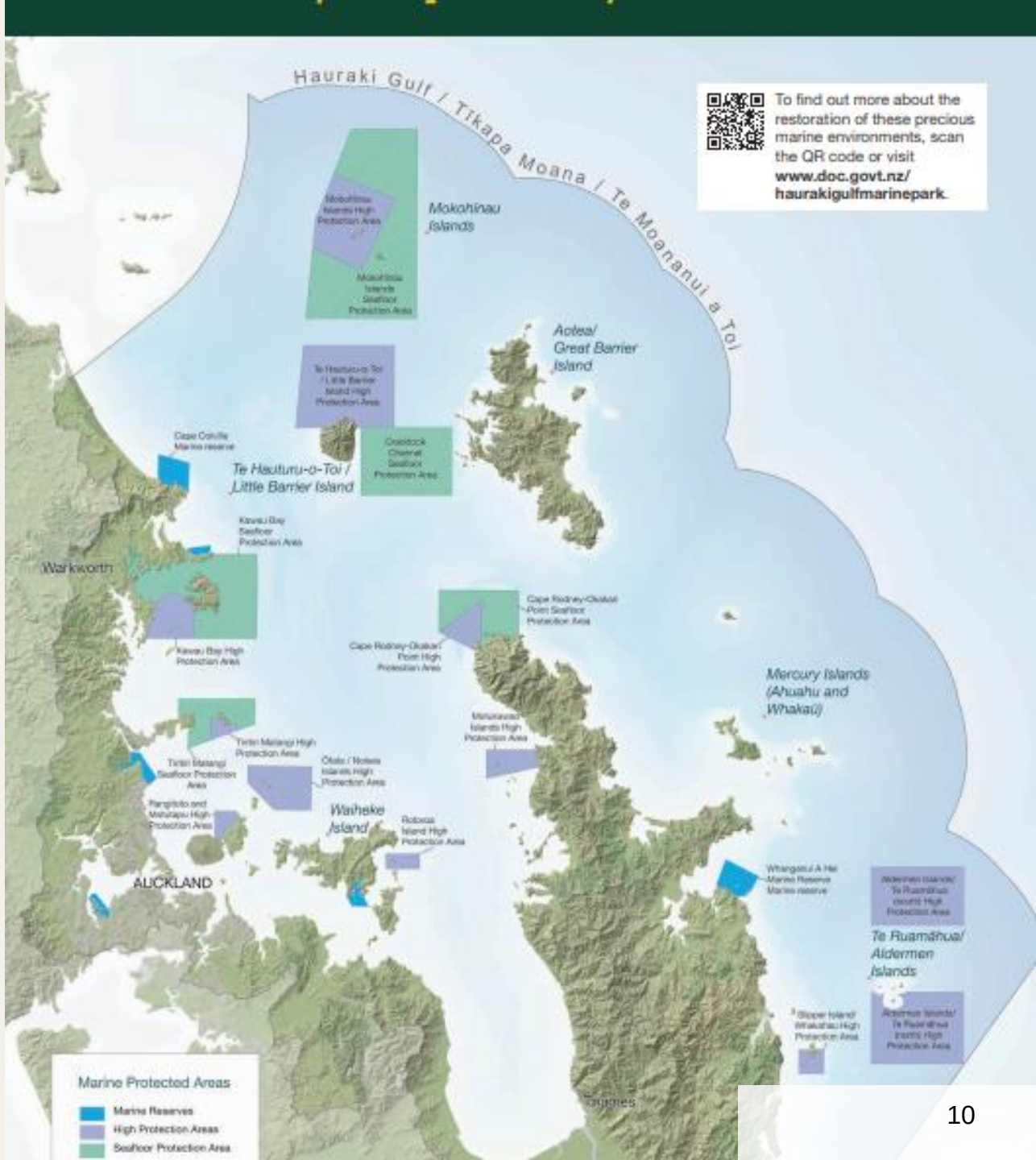
Map Ref.	Site	Map
1	**Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island** **High Protection Area** Area: 195 km² Width: 13 km Coastline: 12 km	

Ecological values	Specific ecological objectives	Justification, including relationship to the Sea Change Plan's proposals
• Typical of north-eastern North Island reef assemblages. • Reef habitats with kelp (*Ecklonia* spp.), sponges, hydroids and ascidians. • Prevalence of epifauna on soft sediments. • Sponge and black coral assemblages on deep offshore reefs. • Deep patch reefs, including the well-known "coral patch" stretching from the north of the island towards the Mokohinau Islands.	• To provide high-level protection to habitats and ecosystems that are typical (representative) of the outer Hauraki Gulf Marine Park (Gulf). • To protect sensitive biogenic habitats on soft and hard substrates (eg, sponges, soft corals and black coral) and the species associated with them. • To provide for the restoration of benthic communities, particularly slow-growing species such as sponges and corals. • To provide high-level protection for land–sea linkages (ie, ki uta ki tai (mountains to sea) protection of the island). • To provide for scientific research and monitoring reference areas to support Gulf-wide management.	• The proposal would offer protection to the island's intertidal reef, deep reef and soft-sediment habitats. High-level protection would extend from Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island Nature Reserve into the sea, providing ki uta ki tai protection of the island. The site is the same overall size as the Sea Change Plan's original recommendation but has been shifted eastwards to accommodate the greater area of reef adjacent to the island. • In the original location, edge effects had the potential to undermine the site's ecological objectives. The amendment is considered to improve the protected area's design and biodiversity outcomes.

Marine Reserves

Triple: Cape Rodney-Okakari Point Marine Reserve

Double: Te Whanganui-ō-Hei Marine Reserve

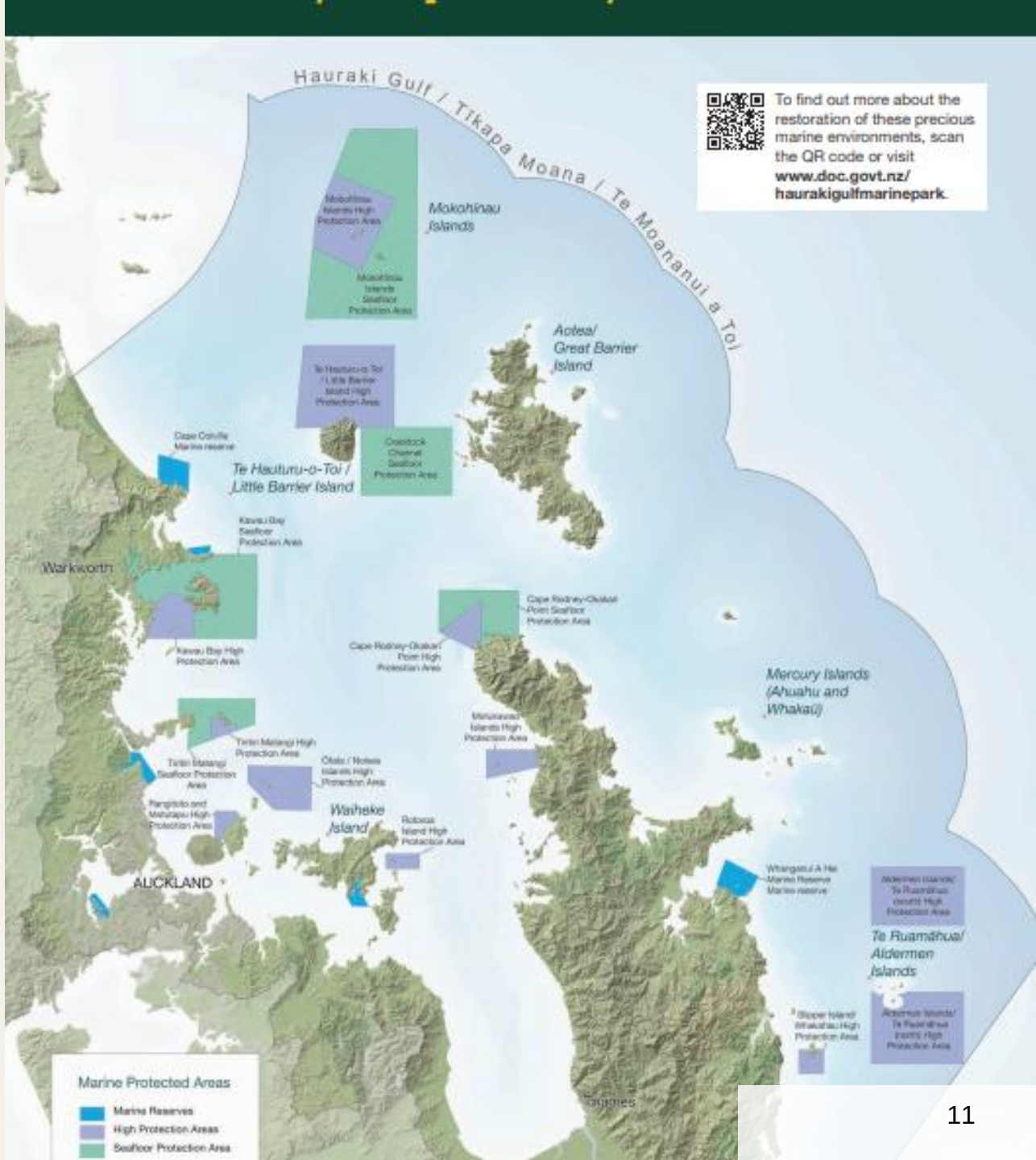


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High Protection Areas

To protect and enhance indigenous **biodiversity** within the high protection areas and, if that biodiversity is degraded, restore it.



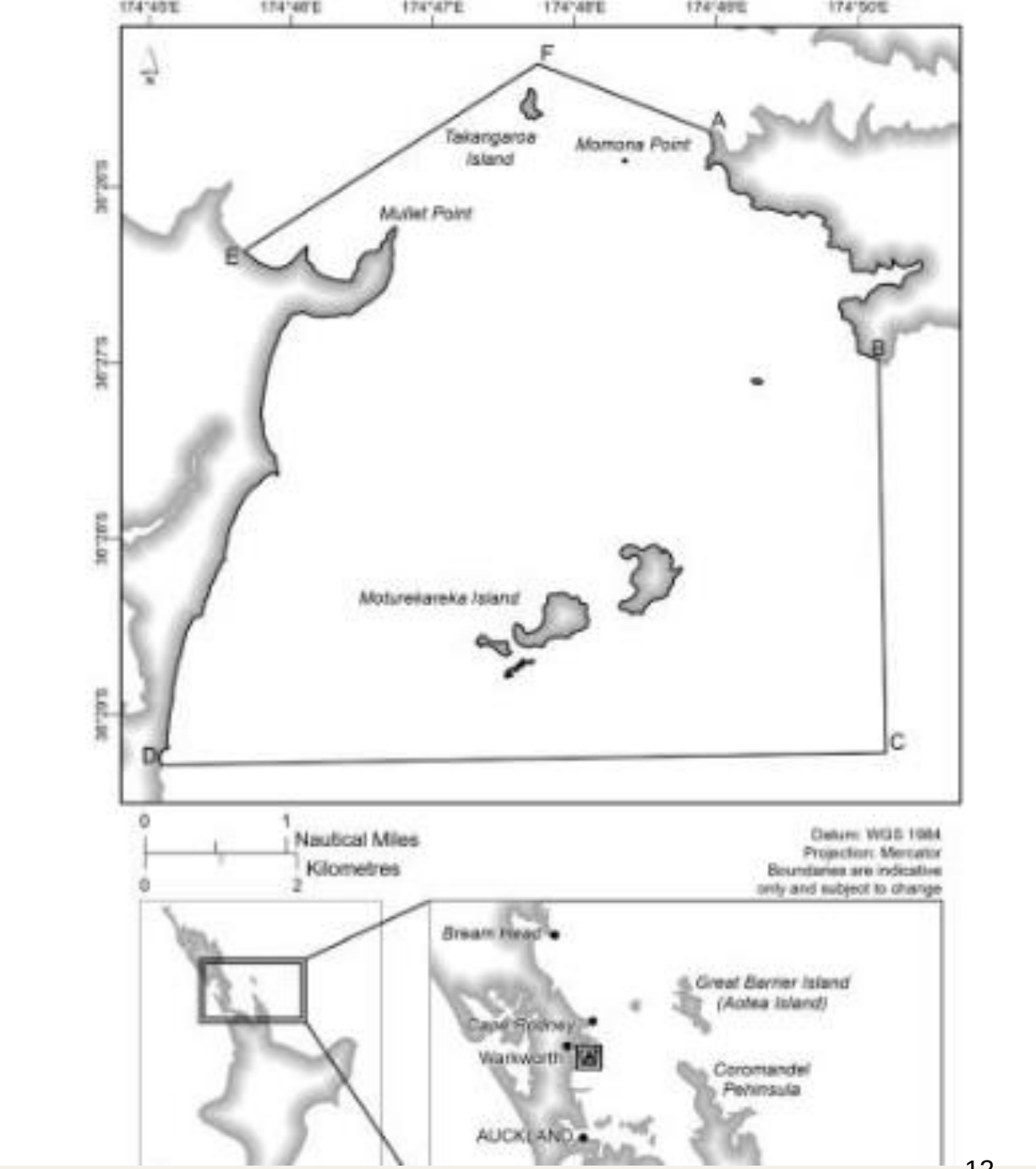
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High Protection Areas

An example:

Kawau High Protection Area

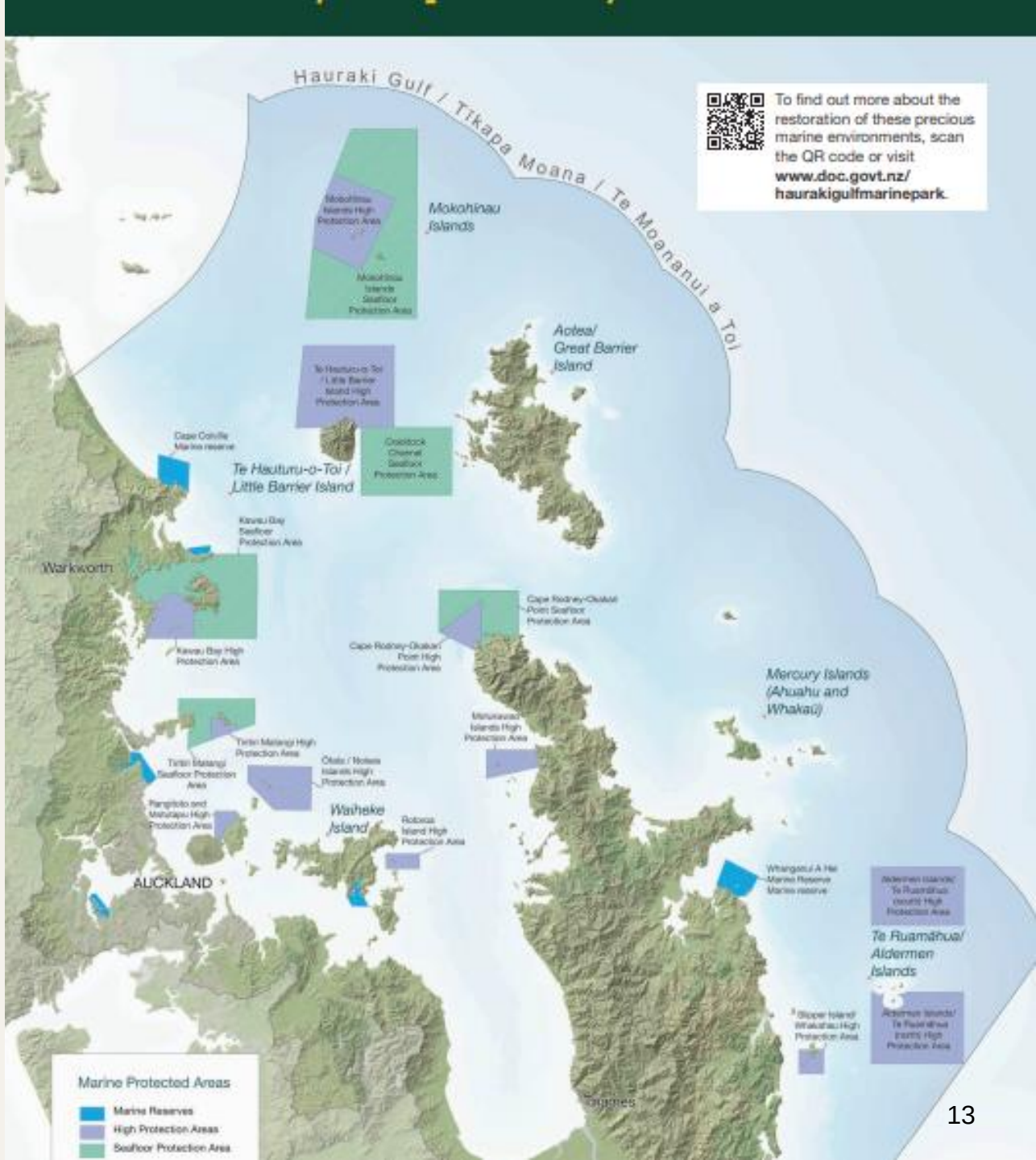


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Seafloor Protection Areas

To maintain indigenous **benthic habitats** within the seafloor protection areas and, if those habitats are degraded, restore them.



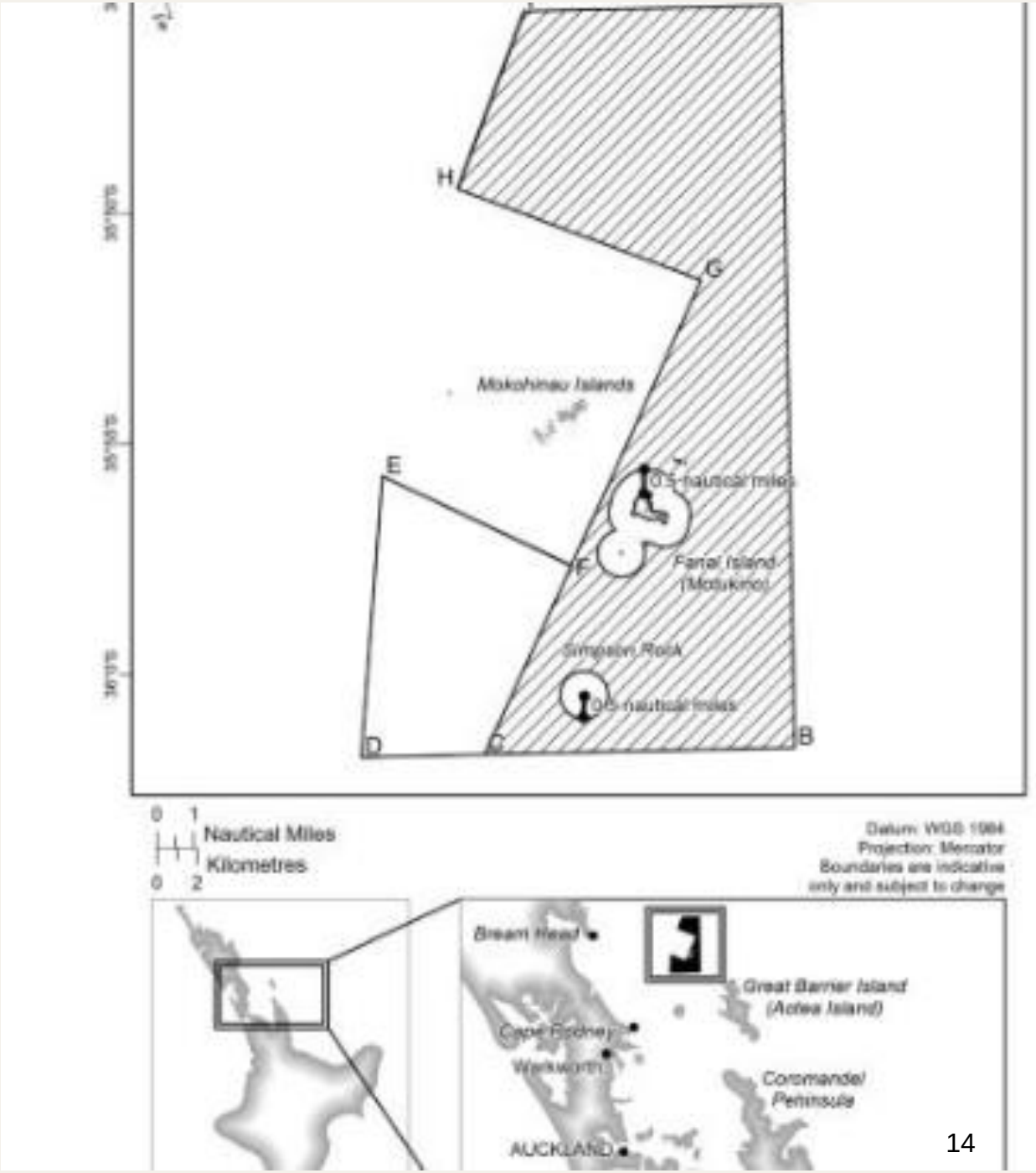
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Seafloor Protection Areas

An example:

Mokohinau Islands have additional restriction relating to potting, netting and long lining on the reef areas is to protect sensitive species such as black corals



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Hauraki Gulf/Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill

Changes since the Bill was introduced to Parliament:

- **Commercial ring-net fishing in Kawau HPA and Motutapu HPA**
- **Development of biodiversity objectives in ‘consultation’ not collaboration**
- **Biodiversity objectives are not linked to customary non-commercial fishing**
- **Customary non-commercial fishing to be regulated through the Fisheries Act, not the Bill.**
- **Language in the Bill from ‘whānau, hapū and iwi’ to ‘iwi’**

Hauraki Gulf/Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill



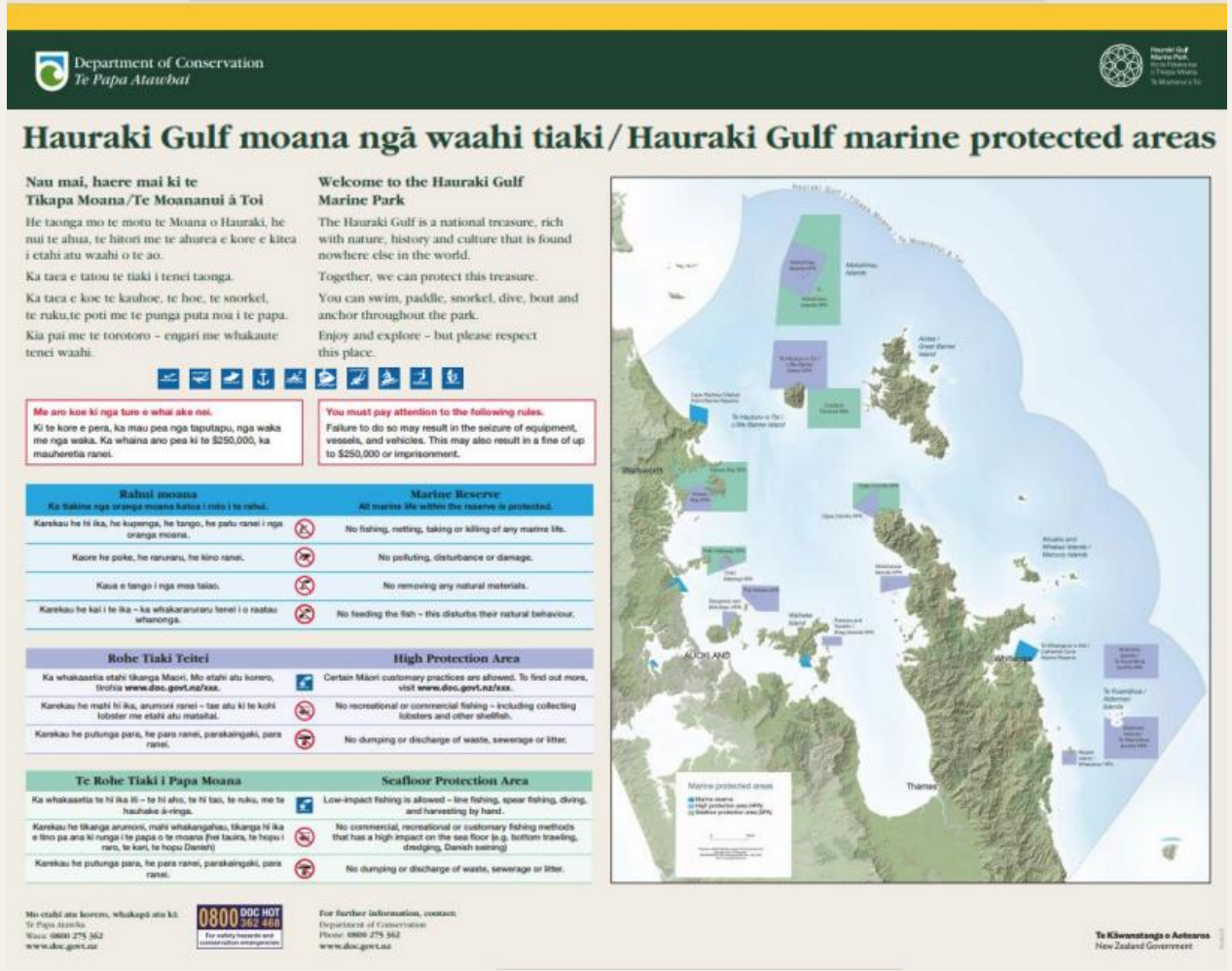


Engagement

- Partners
- stakeholders
- Minister’s event
- Celebratory event
- Media interviews
- Content placements e.g. social media, marine/boating apps
- Pre-recorded presentations
- In-person presentations and events
- RTG posters and collateral
- Permit preparation

Infrastructure

- Signage
- Boundary markers
- Digital
- CCTV
- Vehicles
- Vessel upgrades


Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawbai

Hauraki Gulf moana ngā waahi tiaki / Hauraki Gulf marine protected areas

Nau mai, haere mai ki te Tikapa Moana/Te Moananui ā Toi

He taonga mo te motu te Moana o Hauraki, he nui te ahua, te hitori me te ahurea e kore e kitea i etahi atu waahi o te ao.

Ka taea e tatou te tiaki i tenei taonga.

Ka taea e koe te kauhoe, te hoe, te snorkel, te ruku,te poti me te punga puta noa i te papa.

Kia pai me te torotoro – engari me whakaute tenei waahi.

Welcome to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park

The Hauraki Gulf is a national treasure, rich with nature, history and culture that is found nowhere else in the world.

Together, we can protect this treasure.

You can swim, paddle, snorkel, dive, boat and anchor throughout the park.

Enjoy and explore – but please respect this place.

Me aro koe ki nga ture e whai ake nei.
Ki te kore e pera, ka mau pea nga taputapu, nga waka me nga waka. Ka whaina ano pea ki te $250,000, ka mauheretia ranei.

You must pay attention to the following rules.
Failure to do so may result in the seizure of equipment, vessels, and vehicles. This may also result in a fine of up to $250,000 or imprisonment.

Rahui moana	Marine Reserve
Karekau he hi ika, he kupenga, he tango, he patu ranei i nga oranga moana.	No fishing, netting, taking or killing of any marine life.
Kaore he poke, he raruraru, he kino ranei.	No polluting, disturbance or damage.
Kaua e tango i nga mea taiao.	No removing any natural materials.
Karekau he kai i te ika – ka whakararuraru tenei i o raatau whanonga.	No feeding the fish – this disturbs their natural behaviour.

Rohe Tiaki Teitei	High Protection Area
Ka whakaaetia etahi tikanga Maori. Mo etahi atu korero, tirohia www.doc.govt.nz/xxx.	Certain Māori customary practices are allowed. To find out more, visit www.doc.govt.nz/xxx.
Karekau he mahi hi ika, arumoni ranei – tae atu ki te kohi lobster me etahi atu mataitai.	No recreational or commercial fishing – including collecting lobsters and other shellfish.
Karekau he putunga para, he para ranei, parakaingaki, para ranei.	No dumping or discharge of waste, sewerage or litter.

Te Rohe Tiaki i Papa Moana	Seafloor Protection Area
Ka whakaaetia te hi ika iti – te hi aho, te hi tao, te ruku, me te hauhake ā-ringa.	Low-impact fishing is allowed – line fishing, spear fishing, diving, and harvesting by hand.
Karekau he tikanga arumoni, mahi whakangahau, tikanga hi ika e tino pa ana ki runga i te papa o te moana (hei tauira, te hopu i raro, te kari, te hopu Danish)	No commercial, recreational or customary fishing methods that has a high impact on the sea floor (e.g. bottom trawling, dredging, Danish seining)
Karekau he putunga para, he para ranei, parakaingaki, para ranei.	No dumping or discharge of waste, sewerage or litter.

Mo etahi atu korero, whakapā atu ki:
Te Papa Atawbai
Waea: 0800 275 362
www.doc.govt.nz

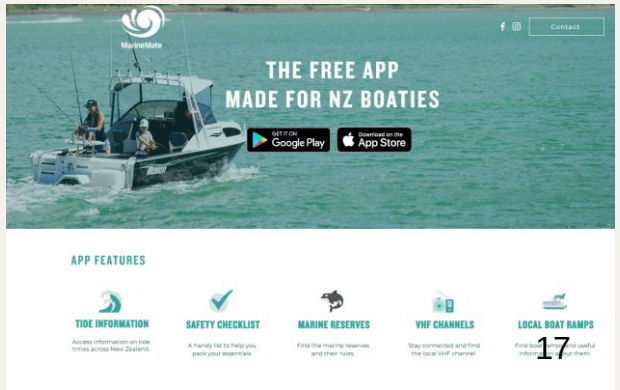
0800 DOC HOT 362 468
For safety hazards and conservation emergencies

For further information, contact:
Department of Conservation
Phone: 0800 275 362
www.doc.govt.nz

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Baseline Surveys

2024

- Rock lobster
- Fish – deep reef
- Deep reef community

2025

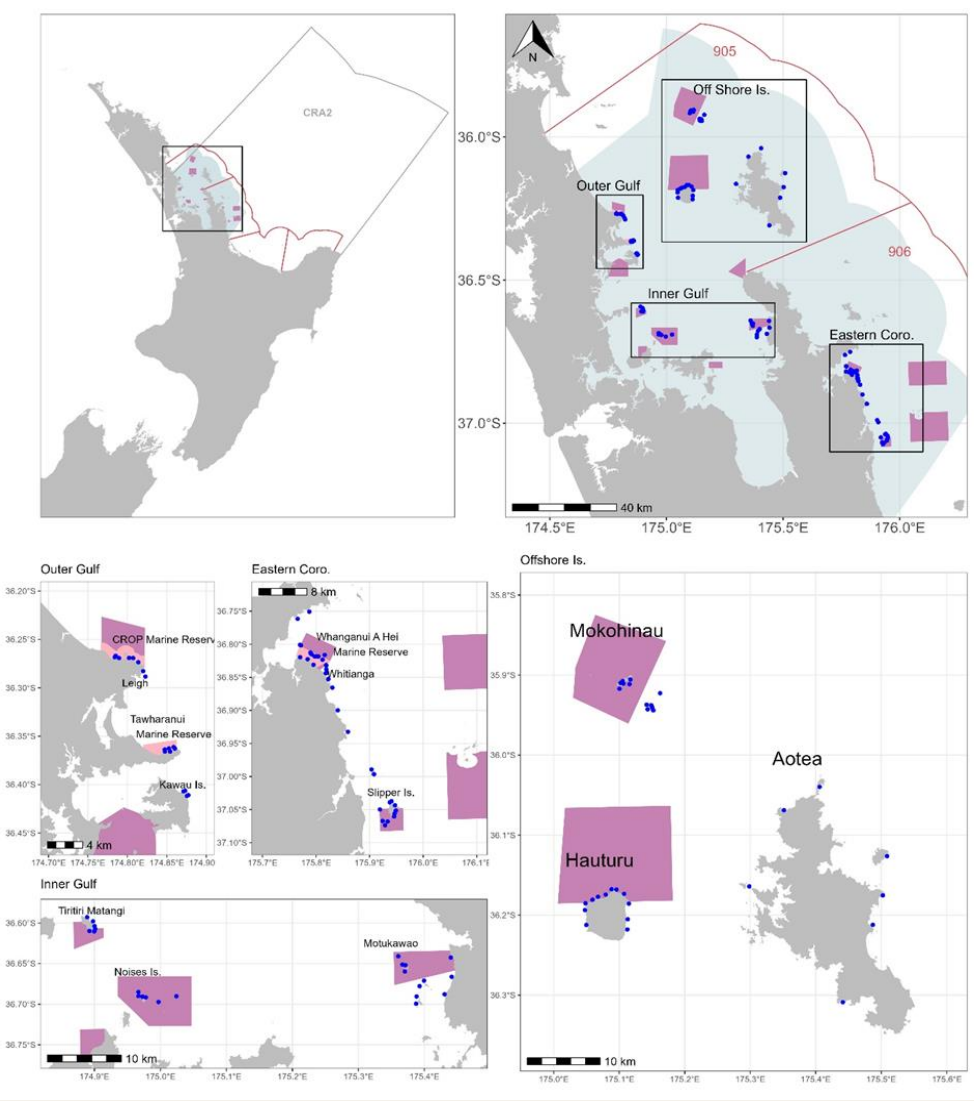
- Fish (Deep and coastal reef)
- Rocky Reef communities
- Soft Sediment communities
- Scallops

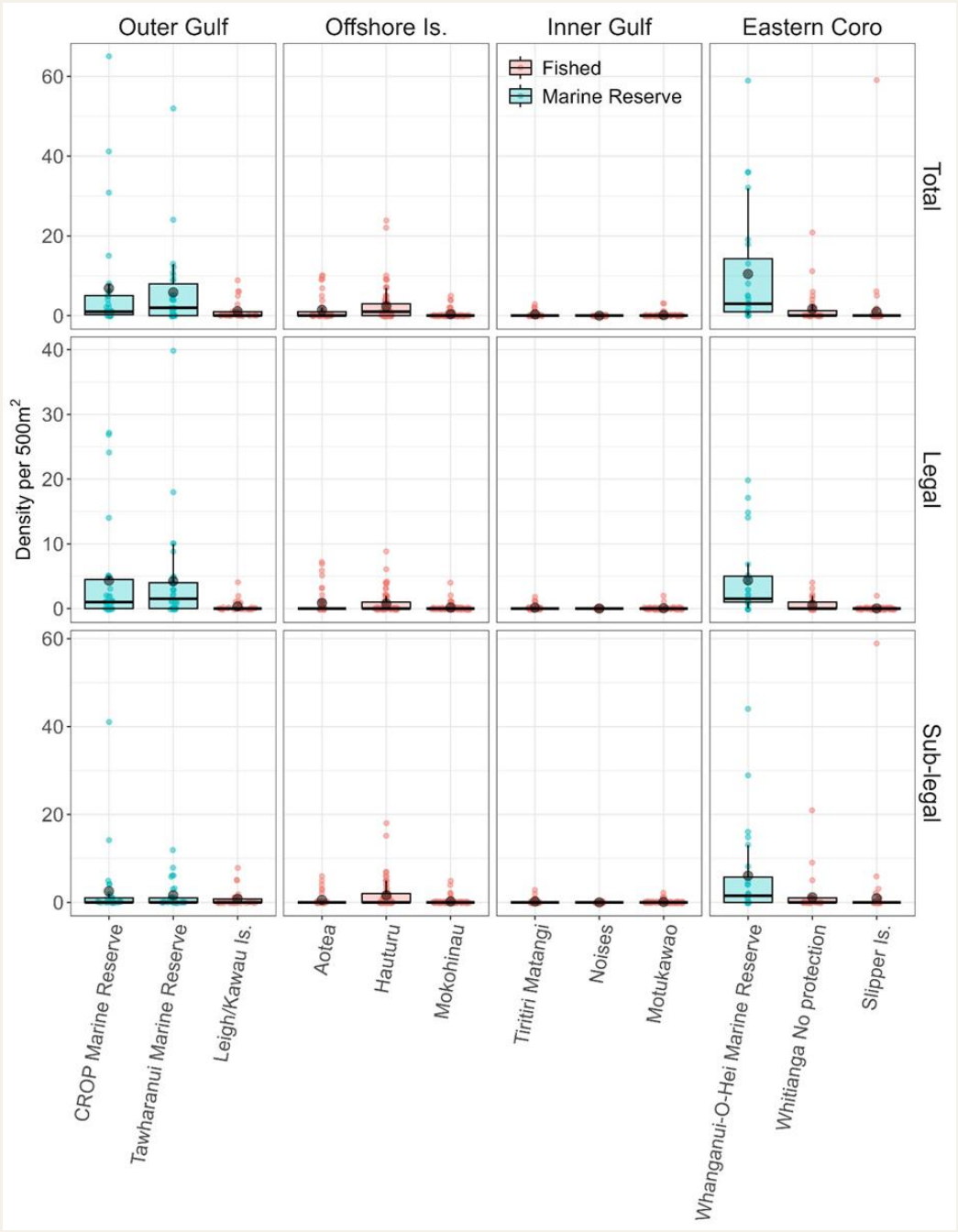


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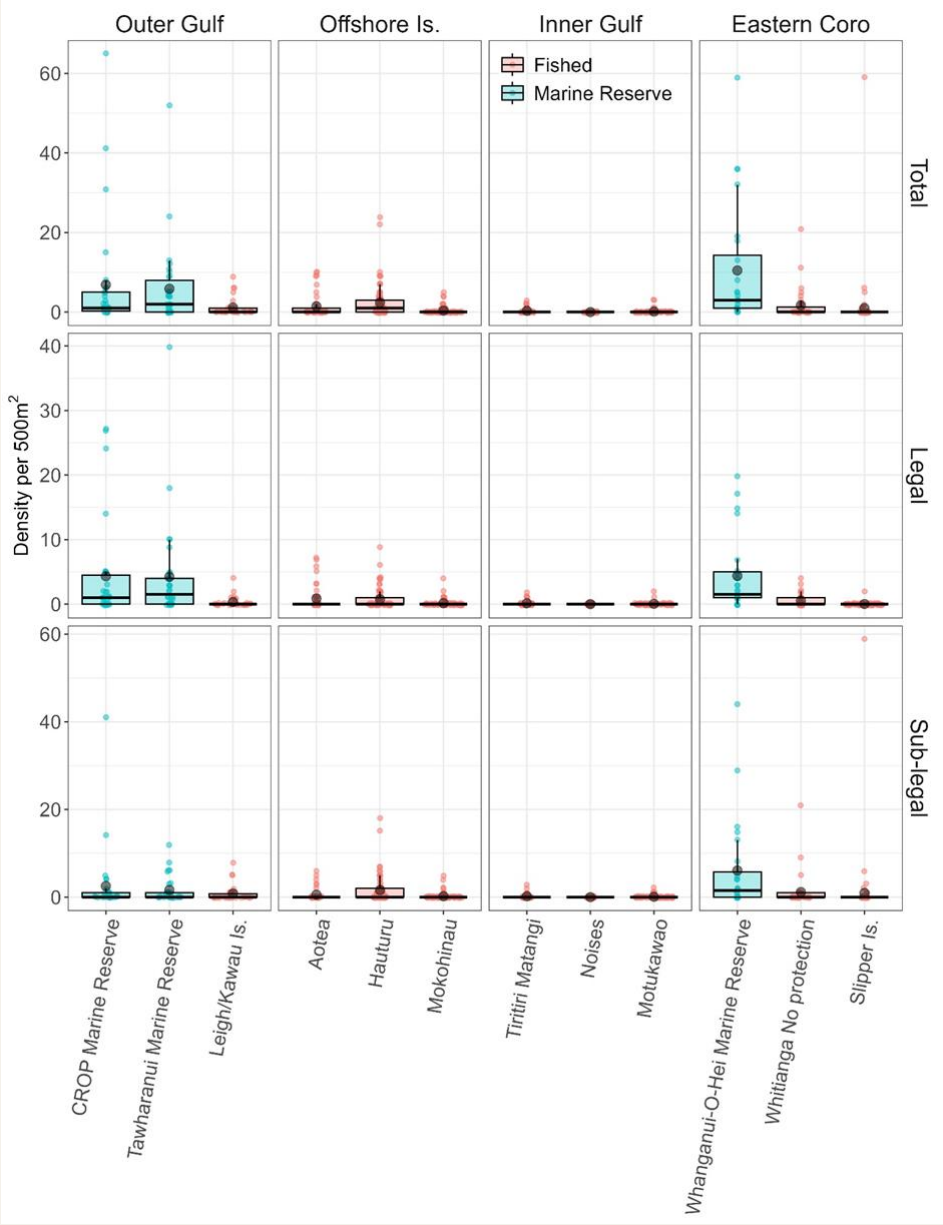
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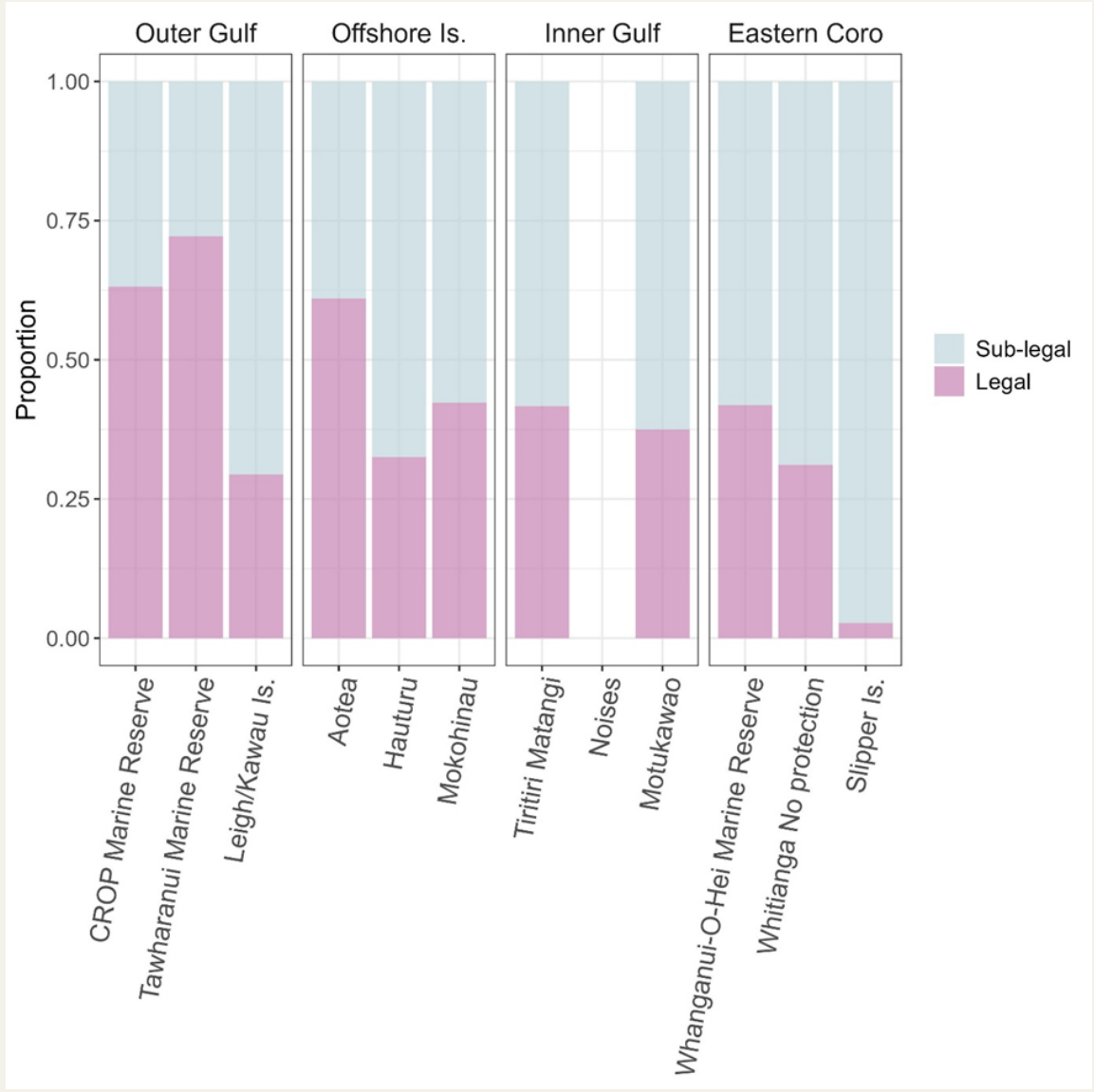
2024 Kōura surveys





Kōura surveys 2024





2024 Stereo Baited Underwater Video

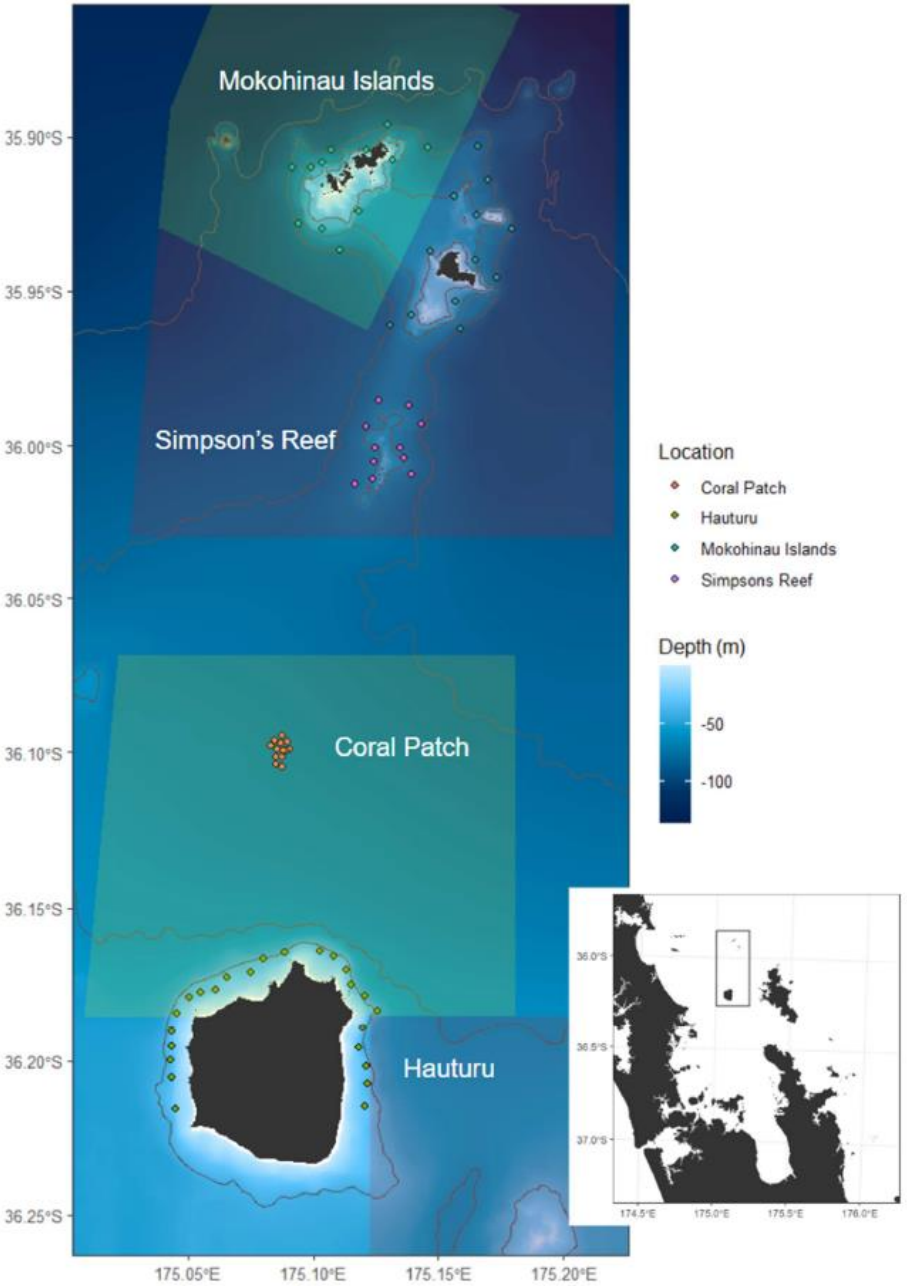


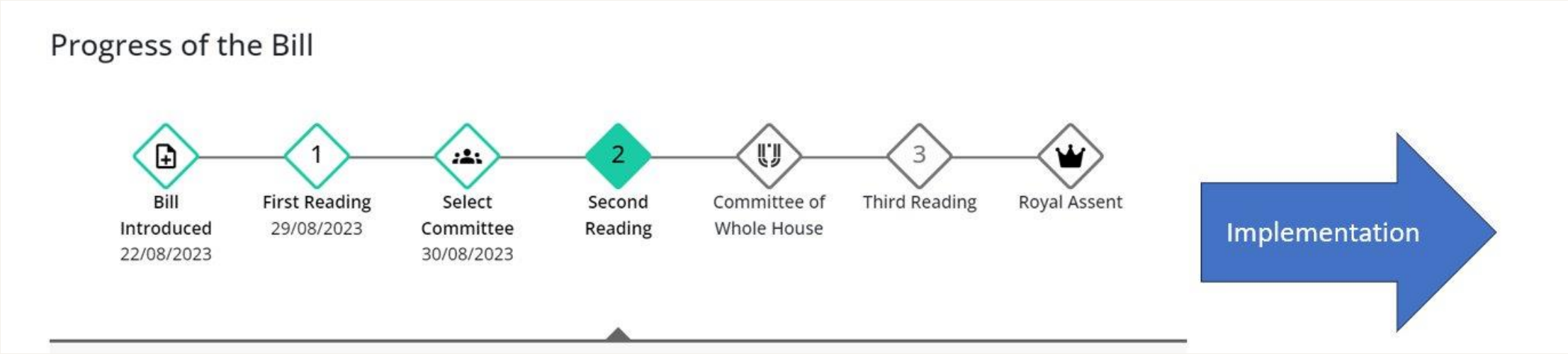
Figure 5. Map of BRUV deployment sites at the four Locations surveyed during the HGO24 campaign. Proposed High Protection Areas and Seafloor Protection Areas are shaded yellow and red, respectively.



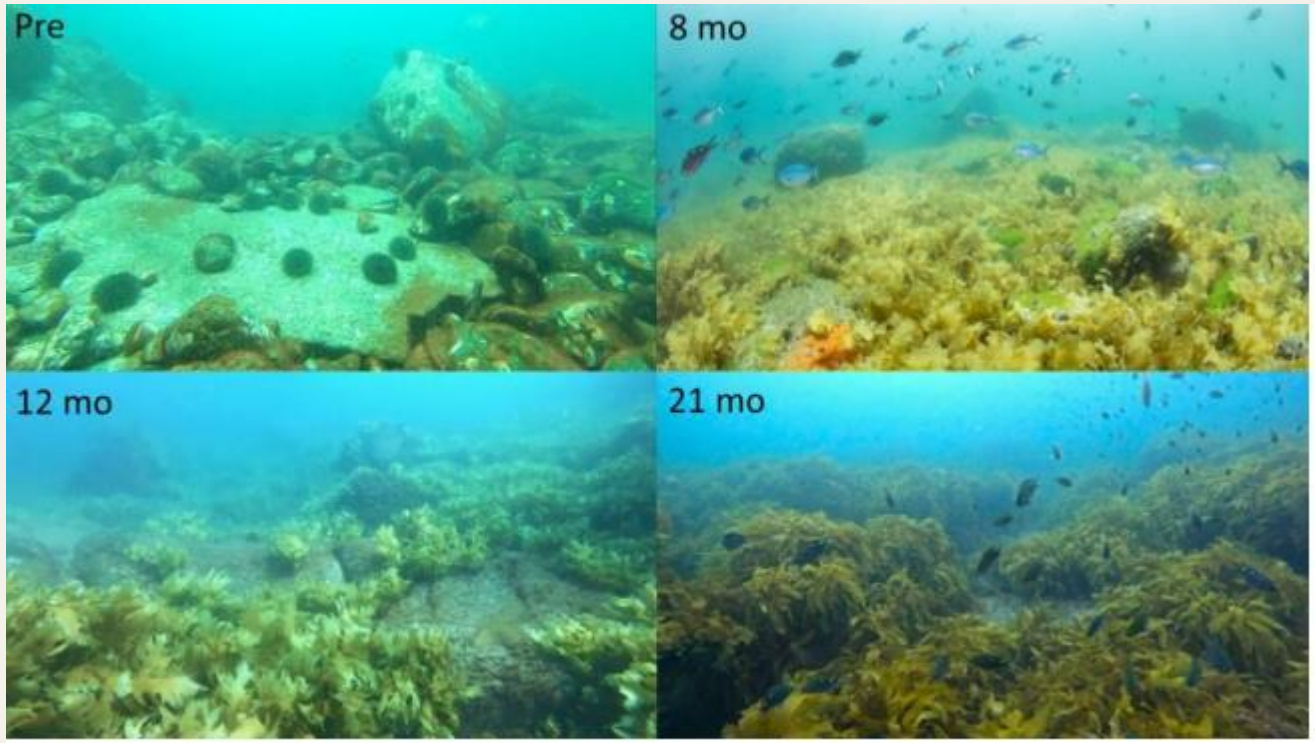


Figure 13. Screenshots from the survey of the Mokohīnau Islands. Top left: WM1 (51 m); top right: WD4 (81 m); bottom left: EM2 (55 m); bottom right: ED2 (84 m).

We are here…


Progress of the Bill
Bill Introduced 22/08/2023
1
First Reading 29/08/2023
Select Committee 30/08/2023
2
Second Reading
Committee of Whole House
3
Third Reading
Royal Assent
Implementation

Active habitat restoration



Regeneration at Little Barrier over 21 months.

Kelsey Miller, UoA

Department of Conservation
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New Zealand Government

More mahi

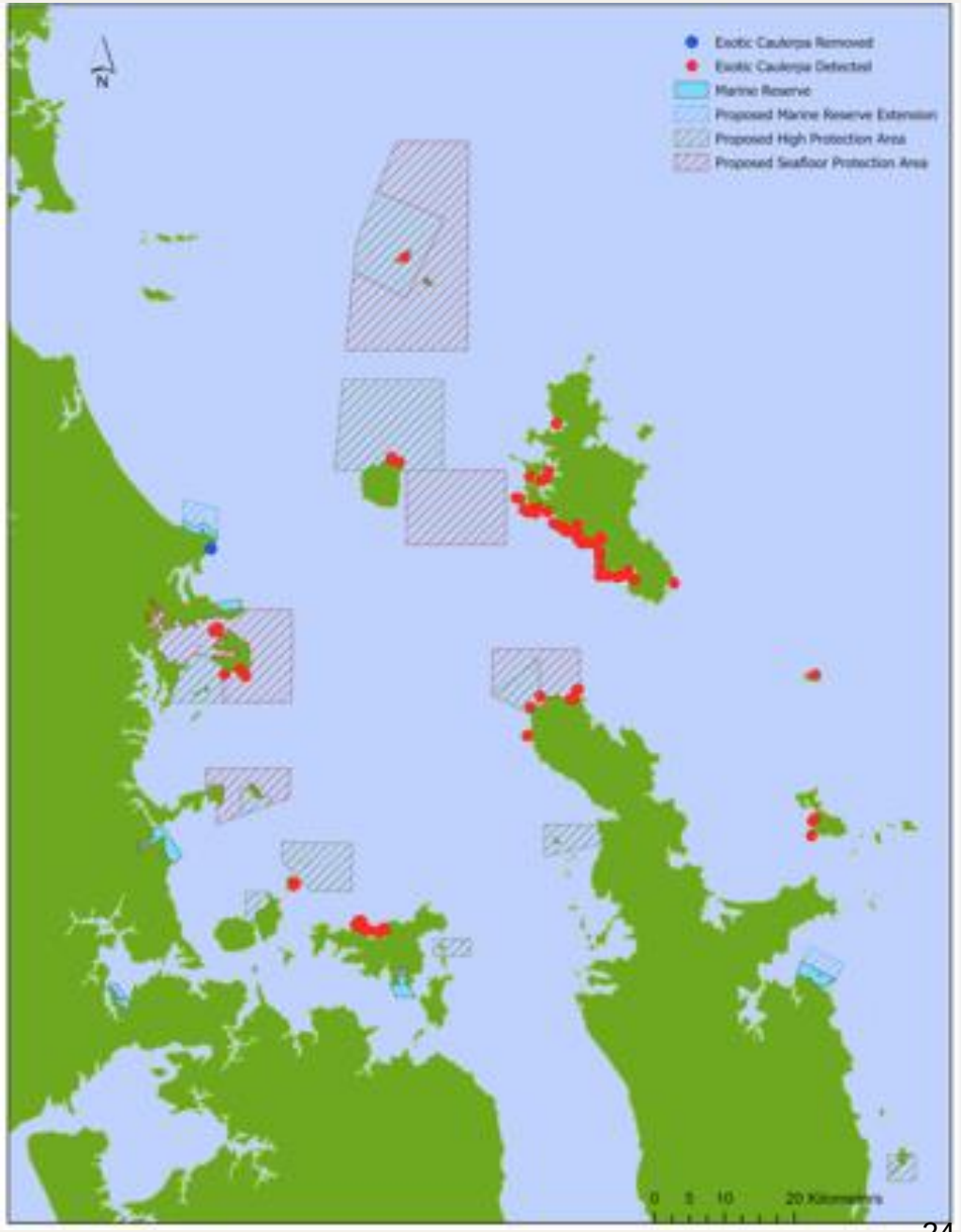
Carve out in the Act for Biosecurity in the legislation
e.g. BNZ/councils to remove Caulerpa

Species protection
CMS milestone – MMTSP

Marine Mammals

Existing marine reserves

Anything salty




"E kitea ai ngā taonga o te moana, me mākū koe"
If you desire the treasures of the ocean, you'll have to get wet

Auckland Conservation Board Meeting No. 169	Agenda Item: 7

REPORT

Meeting Date: 10 September 2025

Prepared By: John Galilee, Statutory Manager

Subject: **Election of Chair & Deputy Chair role**

ACB Strategic Priority and/or the Relevant DOC SOI Goal	The Conservation Board is required to elect a chairperson from their number. The Board can also elect a deputy chair.
Recommendation or Action Required	It is recommended that the Conservation Board: a) **Elect** a Chair for a term of 12 months; and b) **Elect** a Deputy Chair for a term of 12 months
Context	It is recommended best practice that the Chair and Deputy Chair are re-elected each year to ensure that they continue to have the support of members. Members may elect a chair and deputy chair for any length of term they think fit. 12 months is recommended to ensure the people holding those roles continue to have the confidence and support of the Board. The Conservation Board Manual sets out the process as follows: 12.2.1 Chair's role during elections Prior to the Board voting for a chairperson, the current Chair vacates their position, so does not formally hold the position of Chair. Therefore, the Chair cannot exercise a casting vote in the event of a tied result. A Board member who does not wish to stand as Chair should take the chair while the nomination and election process for the Chair is completed. DOC staff may not preside over the election. Because only one round of voting is involved with chairperson elections, if voting for the Chair is tied, the tied result is commonly resolved by lot, for example, by tossing a coin. 12.2.2 Deputy Chair A Board may also elect a deputy chair. Although this is not required by legislation, it can be useful to have a deputy, as that person can stand in at times when the Board's Chair is absent

	from a meeting or is conflicted on a matter. It can also assist with succession planning for a Board. Members should agree on the length of term they will elect a chair and deputy chair for, and record this in the resolutions. Suggested Process to Elect Chair: 1) Current Chair to hand over to another member to chair the process. 2) Acting Chair to call for nominations and expressions of interest for Chair: a. Nomination Moved (by a Board Member) b. Check nomination accepted by nominee c. Nomination Seconded 3) Each nominee presents a brief outline of what they would offer as Chair. 4) Carry out a written, confidential voting process. 5) Votes for each nominee are counted. 6) Resolution to appoint nominee with most votes is moved and seconded. 7) If there are equal votes for two or more people, run voting process again for those with equal votes. For the process to elect a Deputy Chair, it is suggested the newly elected Chair runs the process following the same steps as above.

Auckland Conservation Board Meeting No. 169	Agenda Item: 8

REPORT

Meeting Date: 10 September 2025

Prepared By: Alex Rogers, Director Operations

Subject: **Director's report**

ACB Strategic Priority and/or the Relevant DOC SOI Goal	The Conservation Board represents the community of interest in the work of the Department. A function of the Board is to provide advice to the Department and the NZCA on conservation matters (section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987 refers).
Recommendation or Action Required	It is recommended that the Conservation Board: a) **Note** the contents of this paper.
Context	This information is provided so that the Board is aware of current Director work and priorities in the Auckland region, especially that related to significant or high-risk projects. The Board may choose to provide advice to the Department on any of these matters if it wishes to. These matters are as follows:

E mihi ana au ki a koutou, ngā mema o te rōpū Papa Atawhai ki Tāmaki Makaurau. Atu i tēnā, e tuku ana au ngā whakaaro ake ki ngā mema kua whakahoki ki te rōpū, me ngā mema hou. Nau mai, haere mai, tahuti mai.

A very warm welcome back to returning members Gael and Chris, and new members 'Ema, Joe and Kiri. We are lucky to have members of your standing on the board. Thank you also to retiring members Achyut and Rahul for your service to Tāmaki, and to conservation.

I apologise that I cannot be with you on this occasion, as I will be at a gathering of all the Regional Directors across the country and there is a lot on our plates right now, including multiple change processes, and the launch of a major new public campaign by DOC - 'Mobilising for Nature' – which places nature at the heart of our past, present and future.

Surveys conducted in advance of the campaign showed that as many as 89% of New Zealanders think nature is doing OK – despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. This is a challenge of increasing disconnection from nature, and shifting baselines, which is when each successive generation accepts a worsened state of nature as OK because they have not experienced it better.

This is one of the reasons why our role in Auckland of connecting people with nature is so vital. It is hard to not come away from a visit to Tiritiri Matangi, Goat Island Marine Reserve, or Aotea Great Barrier, without a deep appreciation for what nature can be like if given the chance to flourish. Imagine if every local beach had the biodiversity of Goat Island, or every local bush the birdsong of Tiritiri.

If I have one ask of you on this occasion, it is to help us share the Mobilising campaign with your communities and networks. The more we can get it out there, the more impact it will have.



Since the board last met, regional highlights include the almost complete decarbonisation of Motutapu Island with the switching on of our new solar array there (which recently took out a national award!), the finalisation of a control and manage agreement with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki for parcels on Te Motutapu a Taikehu, the first translocation back to Rakitū island since its pest eradication – of beautiful tīēke, and a lot of work building towards the implementation of the Hauraki Gulf Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill which is currently (as of writing) awaiting its 3rd reading in Parliament.

Finally, my thanks to Shane for his diligence as acting Chair while Gael was overseas, and to members for your engagement with the Port of Auckland Fast Track process where the Board made a valuable contribution.

Mauriora,
Alex

Auckland Conservation Board Meeting No. 169	Agenda Item: 8

REPORT

Meeting Date: 10 September 2025

Prepared By: Fletcher Beazley Operations Manager, Aotea/Great Barrier
Katharine Lane, Operations Manager, Inner Islands
Rebecca Rush, Operations Manager, Tāmaki Makaurau/ Mainland
Kirsty Prior, Operations Manager, Marine
Emma Kearney, Manager Treaty Partner Strategy

Subject: **Departmental reports**

ACB Strategic Priority and/or the Relevant DOC SOI Goal	The Conservation Board represents the community of interest in the work of the Department. A function of the Board is to provide advice to the Department and the New Zealand Conservation Authority on any conservation matters within its geographic area (section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987 refers).
Recommendation or Action Required	It is recommended that the Conservation Board: a) **Note** the contents of this paper.
Context	This information is provided so that the Board is aware of current operational work being undertaken by the Department, especially that related to: • the Board's strategic priorities and focus areas as identified in its Annual Work Plan. • current high priority, significant or high-risk projects being undertaken by the Department. The Board plans to focus on different strategic priorities and focus areas at each of its meetings. The Department's reporting will reflect the focus area/s selected by the Board for each meeting. The Board may choose to provide advice to the Department on any of the matters described in the reports, if members identify a need to do so.

Aotea/Great Barrier Island District Report

DOC Aotea Quarterly Update
The Aotea District's Annual Plan is also attached.

DOC Aotea Annual Work Plan 2025-2026

- Completed an Annual Work Plan for the DOC Aotea Team
- Focused on Actions with the greatest perceived Impact for Biodiversity, Visitor, Heritage, Iwi and Community, Health and Safety
- Aligned to National and Regional Priorities
- Developed with Team, Iwi and Community Input.
- Quarterly Priorities across the Team
- Considerations for Budget and Team/Individual Pacing Workload over the Year

DOC Aotea Matariki Celebration

- Held on Tue 24 June at Aotea DOC base (postponed due to bad weather)
- Comms Island Wide, all 4 Schools Invited, over 120 people attended
- Opening and Welcome from Ngāti Rehua
- Planting: All Students to plant their own tree
- Soup Lunch and Fried Bread Provided
- Watched Video of Tieke Translocation
- Tieke Art Workshop
- "Kaitiaki o te Taiao Competition" School Age Children create a Conservation Picture Book, Story or Video. Announced at Matariki, Event/Prizes Planned for DOC Aotea Christmas Celebration 3 December.







Niho Taniwha Translocation

- 2026 Goal is Niho Taniwha Translocation
- Met with DOC Lizard Tech Advisor to explore/discuss options
- Auckland Zoo is proposed source Population
- Glenfern Sanctuary is preferred Site (Mix of PCL, Council and Private Land)
- Ngāti Rehua is supportive
- Glenfern Sanctuary is supportive
- Met with Auckland Zoo, supportive, viewed original animals removed from Aotea in the 1990's, site visit to Aotea planned for August to scope Glenfern with Zoo Team
- Community Translocation Event scheduled for March or June 2026 depending on project timelines, to coincide with Ngāti Rehua Taiao Wananga (Mar) or Matariki (Jun)





Mokohinau Stag Beetle Recovery

- Specimen located by DOC Aotea Team at survey earlier this year
- Weather constraints have stalled follow-up surveys
- Currently working on a project plan for future surveys
- Visited Zoo, viewed existing insect breeding programs, Zoo keen to start asap, confident in their ability to deliver both a Mokohinau Stag Beetle Breeding Program and Beetle Breeding with another species in parallel. Zoo Entomologist
- Meeting with Inner Islands Team and Mainland Team to collaborate re Surveys and Vessel usage.



Upcoming Kaupapa

Ngāti Rehua Oranga Wananga (25-28 September)
(Health, Education and Employment Focused Wananga)

- DOC Aotea Team will be supporting iwi Access to Raranga via a Planting Day at Motairehe Marae. DOC Aotea is preparing the Plants and Sites.
- DOC Aotea, DOC Heritage Team and Council will meet the Iwi to discuss the management of Wahi Tapu sites around Aotea. There has been significant concern from Iwi re the number of Koiwi being exposed due to coastal erosion and climate change at sites such as Harataonga. Possible Actions include Earthworks, Moving the Koiwi, Fencing, Planting and Signage.
- DOC Aotea, DOC Visitor Team and Council will meet with the Iwi to discuss synergy and collaboration opportunity for Tourism and Visitor Experience. This will include a discussion on the DOC Aotea proposed additions to the Aotea Track, including the Hut upgrades (November 2025), Bike Path at Kaitoke, Horse Trek at Okiwi, Great Paddle at Akapoua, Improved Signage at Okiwi, Rarohara and Kaitoke. Signs will include Visitor, Heritage, Taonga Species. Creation of a Mātauranga Māori Star Map to support the Dark Sky Sanctuary Status of Aotea has been suggested.

Inner Islands District Report

- **International Visitor Levy (IVL) Funding making a difference on Rangitoto and Te Motutau-a-Taikehu.** $1.5m has been awarded to the Hauraki Gulf Islands to tackle invasive pest weeds over the next two years. This is in addition to the $150k awarded through IVL to remove over 1000 wilding pines from Rangitoto in June 2025. The $1.5m million will be used to employ a team of DOC rangers to work across all the Gulf Islands across the Gulf islands, alongside two staff from Nagi Tai ki Tāmaki who will target weeds on Te Motutapu-a-Taikehu. Funding will also be spent across all the islands on abseil weed control in difficult high risk sites, professional arborists to remove more wilding pines and also drone work to identify weed hotspots and control weeds such as pampas on hard-to-reach cliffs.



Seven Sharp filming DOC's weed team for a special feature on Motutapu

- **All Inner Islands are back on solar power.** Major upgrades are now complete on Hauturu-o-Toi, Motuora and Te Motutapu-a-Taikehu to replace the solar power systems. The new system on Te Motutapu-a-Taikehu was recently awarded the best off grid power system award in the Sustainable Energy Association of New Zealand awards **Motutapu Microgrid Sunergise on Vimeo**

- **Species are flourishing on the islands.** A recent survey of tuatara funded by the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi and undertaken by RMA ecology estimates the current population to be around 370 individuals. It was also another bumper season for hihi with 281 birds banded during the last season, and this August marked the 30th anniversary of hihi being on Tiritiri Matangi. Takahē numbers on Motutapu continue to grow, reaching a point where birds can now begin to be returned to the South Island next autumn. Following the translocation of 10 kiwi from Ponui island to Waiheke, the first eggs have now been found on island, within the Te Matuku Peninsula a great sign of the birds on island so far.

- **Kawau Eradication is underway.** Stage one of the eradication is going well with estimates suggesting the team led by Auckland Council are looking at somewhere between 10-100 wallaby remaining on island.

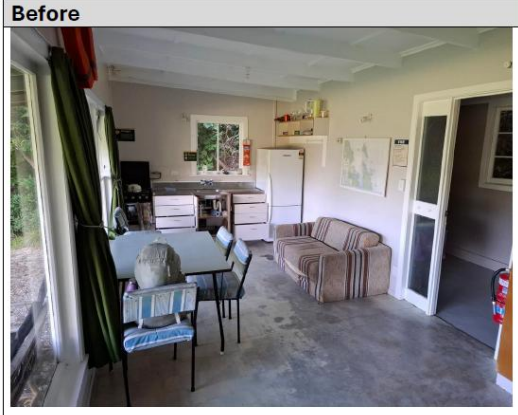
- **Fort Stony Batter Concession Opportunity.** The Department of Conservation ran an expression of interest for the concession for Stony Batter Historic Reserve. Following an assessment of two good proposals, Man o War Limited and Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki have been given the first opportunity to now apply for the concession. The Department is currently awaiting that application, and on receipt will run a public process seeking feedback on it.

- **Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki control and manage agreement.** In May Te Haerenga o Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Limited were appointed by the Department to control and manage parts of Motutapu Island Recreation Reserve, pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977. This strengthens and supports the work of Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki on Te

Motutapu-a-Taikehu and reduces the asset maintenance liability for the Department on the island.

- **Motuihe Trust turns 25 this November. The** trust will be marking the milestone with a special event on Motuihe on Sunday 9th November. There is an opportunity for board members to attend should they wish.

- **Getting ready for summer.** The Motuora bach has had a spruce up ahead of summer and we've got a new roof on the Rangitoto kiosk with more work to come to get the kiosk open for summer for the sale of drinks and goods for visitors thanks to additional funding from the IVL. IVL funding has also been allocated to the Motutapu Home Bay wharf to improve visitor access and also upgrade the Home Bay campground ablution block.

Before	After
	
	New vinyl flooring. Sofa bed, dining table and chairs and new ceiling and wall lightings. Relocation of fridge freezer out into the lobby area.

Tāmaki Makaurau/ Mainland District Report

- **Supporting Treaty Partners with training**. DOC is supporting 15 staff from Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara to complete a 'Certificate in Primary Industry Operations' (NZQCF Level 3), a qualification designed to equip individuals with the skills to work safely and effectively in primary sector roles involving vehicles, machinery, and infrastructure. The certificate began in August 2025 with the completion of the Light Utility Vehicle (LUV) component and will be followed by components including compulsory unit standards in assessing workplace environmental risks and four wheel driving.

- **Review of tara iti structured decision-making process.** The tara iti community, including DOC staff involved in the tara iti programme, undertook a series of workshops in August 2025 to review the structured decision-making process for tara iti. This process was first undertaken in 2018 (with the report 'A structured decision-making approach for the recovery of tara iti / New Zealand fairy tern (*Sternula nereis davisae*)' published in 2021) and has shaped the management strategies that currently drive the programme. The purpose of reviewing this process is to ensure the management strategies utilised are still best suited to ensure the recovery of the tara iti and to consider incorporating alternative strategies that might improve the potential for species persistence.

- **Woodhill buffer deer control programme**. DOC is working alongside Treaty Partner and Woodhill Forest owner Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara to increase deer control around the southern boundary of Woodhill Forest. The aim is to reduce deer numbers in this area and more effectively contain the Woodhill fallow deer population. DOC is working with Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara and neighbouring landowners to secure access to their lands for hunting contractors. We have also supplied a chiller unit to Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara to support their aspiration to utilise meat from the deer control programme and distribute venison to whanau.

- **Te Ngāherehere o Kohukohunui / Hūnua Ranges aerial 1080 operation**. The three-yearly Auckland Council/DOC aerial 1080 operation in the Hunua Ranges began in mid-August 2025 with the prefeed being completed. It is now a waiting game for the right weather window to undertake the toxic bait drop. The operation aims to knock back possum and rat numbers and provide greater protection for threatened species in the Hūnua Ranges, included kōkako. Kōkako numbers have increased dramatically in recent years due to the success of aerial 1080 operations. The toxic operation is undertaken in two blocks to manage the large area and protect water supply reservoirs. Public conservation land within the Hūnua Ranges area is included in the operation.

- **Funding secured for Okura Bush Walkway**. The District has been successful in securing funding to reopen part of Okura Bush Walkway, likely an in-and-out route from Haigh Access Road. The walkway was first closed in May 2018 in a bid to stop the spread of the soil-borne pathogen that causes kauri dieback disease. Some tracks were upgraded in 2019 and 2021 to mitigate against the risk of the disease, but the walkway remained closed as more work was found to be needed. The walkway then suffered significant damage in the severe weather events in early 2023. DOC will be working closely with Treaty Partners to get the walkway reopened to ensure the ngahere is protected and rāhui in place on Okura Bush is respected.

Marine District Report

Hauraki Gulf Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill

- DOC leads the marine protection package that includes 12 new high protection areas, 5 new seafloor protection areas, and extensions to the Cape Rodney – Okakari Point and Whanganui-A-Hei / Cathedral Cove Marine Reserves.
- In October 2024 the Minister of Conservation announced that the Government will pass the Bill. The Committee of the Whole House was completed this August, and the Third Reading is anticipated in September, followed by enactment in October.

Marine Operations Team

- The Marine District, a new DOC operational team focused on Tīkapa Moana, Te Moananui-ā-Toi, continues to grow in anticipation of the Bill being passed. Further recruitment for the summer season ahead is underway.
- Land Information NZ (LINZ) have approved all survey plans for the new marine protected areas.
- Approximately 180 compliance signs will be updated from Tauranga to Whangarei and the Hauraki Gulf islands. The signs are being produced and will be installed at key sites from September.

- Planning is underway for installation of more marine protection surveillance cameras.
- Online apps including Garmin, Marinemate and fishing apps will be updated with new maps upon completion of the Third Reading.
- DOC's webpages for each of the new marine protected areas are loaded, tested and awaiting publishing. Downloadable PDF maps for each MPA will be available.
- Collateral including brochures, giveaways, posters are in production.
- Engagement with key stakeholders (fishing clubs, boat clubs etc) is planned.
- Webinars are being designed for DOC and MPI staff to upskill warranted officers and increase information sharing between agencies.
- We are working closely with FNZ for webinars, governance, operations and key touch points.

Mana whenua

- DOC is happy to meet with individual iwi and hapū who wish to have further information on various kaupapa related to the Bill and its implementation.
- Opportunities for participation in biodiversity surveys have been offered to 26 iwi across the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park/ Tīkapa Moana, Te Moananui-ā-Toi.
- We continue to reach out to mana whenua to share information and opportunities, including compliance sign design and updates to the proposed legislation.
- Mana whenua were involved in the DOC Marine Reserves Rangers annual wānanga in August and joined MET and ops staff doing baseline surveys on vessels and foot patrols in marine reserves.
- As part of the legislation DOC has 2 years to complete biodiversity objectives alongside mana whenua.

Treaty Report

- In August, Auckland Council's relevant Committee and Local Boards unanimously resolved to support the signing of a Deed of Acknowledgement under the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008. The Act is administered by the Department of Conservation. Parties to the Deed are Auckland Council, the Department of Conservation and Te Kawerau ā Maki. The purpose of the Deed is to acknowledge the historic and cultural connections of iwi to Te Wao Nui o Tiriwā/the Waitākere Ranges. It is expected that a signing ceremony will take place in September.

END

DOC Aotea Vision 2030

Mauri Tangata!
Mauri Taonga!
Mauri Aotea!



Department of Conservation Aotea Program Logic 2025-2030

Minister's Priorities

-Target investment into high-value conservation outcomes.

-Generate new revenue and recalibrate costs.

-Strengthen relationships with Iwi/hapū for better conservation outcomes.

-Fix concession processes.

Inputs

-People Resources

-Financial Resources

-Asset Resources

-Relationships

Outputs

-5 Years, 5 Taonga Species, 5 Translocations

-Niho Taniwha Translocation

-Stag Beetle Recovery Project

-Kauri Ora Project

-Predator and Pest Project

-Aotea Track Project (Huts, Signs and Upgrades)

-Iwi Wananga, Community Events and Media Development

-Health and Safety Project

Outcomes Impact

-Increased Trust with Stakeholders via Translocations

-Improved Biodiversity

-More Visitors Engaged and Heritage Sites Protected

-Improved Collaboration with Iwi and Community

-Improved Health and Safety

Department of Conservation Aotea: Work Priorities 2025-2026 (Musts)

	First Quarter Jul, Aug, Sep 2025	Second Quarter Oct, Nov, Dec 2025	Third Quarter Jan, Feb, Mar 2026	Fourth Quarter Apr, May, Jun 2026
Taonga Species 5 Taonga Species, 5 Years, 5 Translocations 2026 Niho Taniwha	• Scope and Plan Niho Taniwha Translocation • Scope and Plan Future Translocations	• Niho Taniwha Translocation Permission • Scope and Plan Future Translocations	• Complete Niho Taniwha Survey • Scope and Plan Future Translocations	• Niho Taniwha Community Translocation Event • Scope and Plan Future Translocations
Taonga Species Mokohinau Stag Beetle	• Scope & Plan Surveys • Plan Breeding Program	• 2 Beetle Surveys at Mokohinau Islands	• 2 Beetle Surveys at Mokohinau Islands	• 2 Beetle Surveys at Mokohinau Islands
Taonga Species Kauri Ora on Aotea Track	• Develop Kauri Ora Survey	• Helicopter Operation Gravel Aotea Track	• Helicopter Operation Gravel Aotea Track	• Implement Kauri Ora Survey
Predators and Pests • Feral Cats and Rodents at Hirakimatā and Te Paparahi • Pest Plants at Rakitū and Mokohinau Islands	• Cat and Rat Traps at Hirakimatā • Tracking Tunnels at Hirakimatā and Te Paparahi • Plan Pest Plant Work	• Cat and Rat Traps at Hirakimatā • Tracking Tunnels at Rakitū and Mokohinau • Pest Plants at Rakitū	• Cat and Rat Traps at Hirakimatā • Tracking Tunnels at Hirakimatā and Te Paparahi • Pest Plants at Mokohinau	• Cat and Rat Traps at Hirakimatā • Tracking Tunnels at Rakitū and Mokohinau • Pest Plants at Rakitū
Visitor and Heritage • Aotea Track Upgrades and Signs • Aotea Track, Hut and Campsite Maintenance • Wahi Tapu Plan	• Scope Aotea Track Signs • Scope Horse Trek • Aotea Track Maintenance\ • Scope Wahi Tapu Management Plan with Iwi	• Scope Bike Path • Develop Sign Content • Aotea Track Maintenance • Campsite Maintenance • Scope Wahi Tapu Management Plan with Iwi	• Scope Great Paddle • Create Signs • Kaiaraara Hut Upgrade • Aotea Track Maintenance • Campsite Maintenance	• Create Funding Proposal for Bike, Horse and Paddle Projects • Install and Open Signs • Aotea Track Maintenance
Iwi and Community • Ngāti Rehua Wananga • Community Events • Media and Communications	• Ngāti Rehua Oranga Wananga • Work with Ngāti Rehua on Marae Flax Planting • Develop Taiao Wananga Film	• Christmas Celebration with Iwi and Community • “Kaitiaki o te Taiao” Competition for Schools • Develop Kauri Ora Film	• Ngāti Rehua Taiao Wananga • Work with Ngāti Rehua to Prepare Trees for Community Planting (Q4) • Develop Aotea Track Film	• Matariki Celebration with Iwi, Community, Schools • Community Tree Planting • Develop Niho Taniwha Translocation Film
Health and Safety • Annual Health and Safety Training Days • Quarterly Cultural Training	• Firearm Safety Training Day • General H&S Training Day • Cultural Training Day	• Fire Team Training Day • Helicopter Training Day • Cultural Training Day	• Boat Safety Training Day • Whale Training Day • Cultural Training Day	• First Aid Training Day • Health and Safety Report • Cultural Training Day

Auckland Conservation Board Meeting No. 169	Agenda Item: 8

REPORT

Meeting Date: 10 September 2025

Prepared By: John Galilee, Statutory Manager

Subject: **Statutory Report**

Strategic Priority for the ACB and/or DOC	The Conservation Board represents the public community of interest in the work of the Department. A function of the Board is to provide advice to the Department and the NZCA on conservation matters, which may include applications for various types of statutory consent (section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987 refers).
Recommendation or Action Required	It is recommended that the Conservation Board: a) **Note** the contents of this paper. b) **Note** that certain concession applications are referred to the Board's Statutory Subcommittee for comment if they meet the Board's consultation triggers.
Context	This report presents a summary of the more significant items of work that the Department has undertaken since the Board's meeting on 4 June 2025. A detailed report about permissions activity has been forwarded to the Chair and the members of the Board's Statutory Subcommittee. At the Board's 4 December 2024 meeting membership of the Statutory Subcommittee was confirmed as: **Mervyn Kerehoma** **Nerissa Henry** **Chris Severne** In November 2018, the Board adopted a refreshed set of consultation triggers, identifying those concession applications that will be referred to the Board's Statutory Subcommittee for comment as part of the process.

Concessions

Triggered applications

1. Four applications have been triggered to the Statutory Sub-committee since the Board's previous meeting:
    - A lease over the woolshed, nursery and several utility sheds on Te Motu-a-Ihenga/Motuihe Island.
    - A lease over the old Harataonga homestead on Aotea/Great Barrier and a licence to graze the adjoining reserve.
    - A lease to operate the café in Mansion house Valley on Kawau (application has since been approved).
    - A permit to attach a floating pontoon to an existing wharf in Te Matuku Marine Reserve (application has since been approved).
2. Six applications triggered to the Board have been approved since the Board's previous meeting. In addition to those identified as approved above:
    - Marine mammal watching permits in the Hauraki Gulf (two applications).
    - A lease over a former Scout Hall in a small reserve in Glen Innes for the provision of community social services.
    - A lease over a former Plunket playcentre in a small reserve in Mt. Roskill for the provision of community social services.
3. Two applications that have been previously triggered to the Board are awaiting final decisions. They include applications for:
    - leases over 28 baches on Rangitoto for private use.
    - a lease to manage and operate the Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp.

Other long term concession applications

4. Five other new applications for long-term concessions have been received since the Board's previous meeting. These were not triggered to the Board. These were for:
    - Use of drones for research (two applications).
    - An easement to allow for access over a conservation area to support servicing of a wastewater pipeline near Warkworth.
    - Guiding on formed tracks at various locations (two applications).
5. Six long-term concession applications have been approved since the Board's previous meeting, including:
    - Use of drones for research (two applications).
    - Identification and filming of marine mammals (two applications).
    - A right of way easement associated with a retaining wall required for severe weather damage remediation.
    - The holding of injured pinnipeds (seals) at Auckland Zoo for rehabilitation.

Translocations

6. Two applications for translocations of species were being processed in the period since the Board's previous meeting:

- Transfer of pāteke/brown teal from captive breeding facilities to private land at Te Arai.
- Transfer of pōpokotea/whitehead from Shakespear Regional Park to private land near Glorit.

Resource Management Act

7. One update on work undertaken under the Resource Management Act was provided to the Board's Statutory Subcommittee since the Board's previous meeting:
    - Resolution of DOC's concerns in relation to a proposed managed landfill near Pukekohe, for which Auckland Council granted consents.

Marine Reserves Act

8. The Department's advice on an application for a new marine reserve off the north-western coast of Waiheke was provided to the Minister of Conservation in November 2024. The Minister is considering his decision.

Auckland Conservation Board Meeting No.169	Agenda Item: 9

REPORT

Meeting Date: 10 September 2025

Prepared By: John Galilee, Statutory Manager

Subject: **Approval of the Annual Report 2024/2025**

Strategic Priority for the ACB and/or DOC	Preparation of an annual report to the New Zealand Conservation Authority is a statutory requirement under section 6O of the Conservation Act 1987. The Conservation Board Manual recommends that the Annual Report is submitted by the end of September each year.
Recommendation or Action Required	It is recommended that the Conservation Board: a) **Approve** the 2024/2025 Annual Report, subject to any changes requested during the meeting.
Context	A draft of the Board's annual report for the 2024/2025 year was prepared by Board support staff. After the Chair reviewed and endorsed the draft for referral to members, the draft was circulated to members for review and comment on 19 August. It was also circulated to three former members whose terms were extended to the end of October 2024 pending the appointment of new members, including the former chair, Nicola MacDonald. Following the receipt of comments from members on the draft, it has been revised and further reviewed by the Chair. It is recommended that the Board approve the 2024/2025 Annual Report, subject to any final changes suggested by members during the meeting and final approval by the Chair. The final version of the annual report will include photographs that suitably illustrate the Board's activities throughout the year.

Auckland Conservation Board

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau

Annual Report 2024-2025

Front cover photo

Annual Report of the

Auckland Conservation Board

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau

For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority / Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa pursuant to section 6O of the Conservation Act 1987

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Edward Ellison
Chairperson, New Zealand Conservation Authority
PO Box 10420
Wellington 6143

Tēnā koe Edward

We are pleased to submit, the annual report of the Auckland Conservation Board (the Board) for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, in accordance with section 6O of the Conservation Act 1987.

For our Board, the 2024/25 year has been characterised by collaboration, advocacy and opportunities to focus on specific high priority outcomes. As part of this mahi we continue to embed our priority to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and work in partnership with Tāmaki Makaurau iwi on advocacy and conservation project initiatives.

Collaboration

Many hands make light work! And it has been very rewarding and productive this year to work alongside:

- Mina Pomare, Chair Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board – sharing her Board's experiences preparing their Conservation Management Strategy.
- Our neighbouring Conservation Boards – in particular Te Hiku o Te Ika and Northland Conservation Boards on concerns arising from the Treaty Principles Bill and Waikato Conservation Board on shorebird/seabird conservation.
- Fletcher Beazley, Chair of the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust – developing aligned outcomes and actions to deliver improved conservation outcomes for Aotea.
- A large number of Department of Conservation (DOC) staff actively engaged in our Board's conservation priority areas.
- Iwi and community group representatives, particularly during, and following on from, our Aotea/Great Barrier visit.

The Board continues to work on raising our profile with key stakeholders and responding to any opportunities to accelerate iwi and community conservation endeavours.

Advocacy

In response to a multi-faceted series of reforms over the year, our Board has increased efforts to input into government decision-making. Our advocacy approach is to be as constructive as possible - identifying issues based on our "on the ground" experience and suggesting solutions for government to consider.

Some of our substantive pieces of feedback during the 2024/25 year were to the:

- Minister of Conservation expressing concerns about the Treaty Principles Bill, in conjunction with the Te Hiku o Te Ika and Northland Conservation Boards (September 2024).
- Prime Minister and Minister of Conservation to advocate for enactment of the Tīkapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill (June 2025).
- Department of Conservation – on plans to amend conservation legislation (February 2025), implement the Te Mana o Te Taio Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (June 2025) and review the Predator Free 2050 Strategy (June 2025).
- Finance and Expenditure Select Committee on the Regulatory Standards Bill.
- Auckland Council on future options to protect Auckland's environment from biosecurity threats (December 2024).

At the end of the 2024/2025year, we also embarked on our first contribution to the Expert Panel appointed under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 to decide on an application from Port of Auckland Ltd. to extend Bledisloe and Fergusson wharves (June 2025).

Focus Areas

Our Board recognises the breadth and depth of conservation needs across our region and the risk of being spread too thin across these. To mitigate this risk, in addition to our ongoing collaborative relationship building and advocacy work, we are focusing on two of the region's most pressing conservation needs. These are improved conservation outcomes for:

- Aotea/Great Barrier Island
- Marine ecosystems in particular shorebirds and seabirds.

Following on from our two-day visit to Aotea we are working in partnership with Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea to grow awareness of the island's unique native ecosystems and advocate for more investment in improving conservation outcomes.

By the conclusion of the 2024/25 year, we were still in the process of determining optimum actions the Board can take to improve the health of our region's marine ecosystems which are in dire straits from higher temperatures and acidity associated with climate change, contaminated catchment runoff, fishing and exotic species invasions such as *Caulerpa*.

We would like to acknowledge our departing members and welcome new members all of whom have and are contributing significantly to our mahi. And express our gratitude for the excellent assistance we support we receive from our departmental support team John Galilee (Statutory Manager) and Emma Smith (Board Support Officer).

No reira

E noho ora mai

Gael Ogilvie

Chairperson
Auckland Conservation Board (November 2024- ongoing)

Nicola Macdonald

Chairperson
Auckland Conservation Board (November July 2024-October 2024)

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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the thirty-fourth Auckland Conservation Board Annual Report. Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (**Authority**) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Auckland Conservation Board (**Board**) submits this annual report.

Conservation boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. They represent the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation (**Department**), within their area of jurisdiction.

Conservation board members are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987 (**Act**). Board functions are outlined in section 6(M) and the powers, which enable the conservation boards to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act. The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts, including:

- the recommendation of the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and the Authority on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- reporting on the implementation of the CMS
- the recommendation of national park management plans to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and Authority on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- liaising with the regional Fish and Game Council on conservation matters
- carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

Conservation boards also have several functions under the National Parks Act 1980 but there are no national parks within the Board's district.

2. ROHE

The Auckland Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area of of 2,430,884 hectares. This area extends from the west coast to the east coast in the narrowest part of New Zealand. The entrance to the Kaipara Harbour marks the north-western corner of the region and Mangawhai Heads marks the north-eastern point. In the south-west, the boundary follows the north bank of the Waikato River, and the south-eastern boundary is on the Firth of Thames at Pūkorokoro/Miranda. The Board's district also currently includes Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier and the islands of the Hauraki Gulf as well as the Kermadec Islands, located 800-1,000km northeast of the North Island.

The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit. with respect to protected species.

Public conservation land and waters make up 44.97% of all the Board's total district. This consists of:

- 36,727 hectares of Public Conservation Land

- 336,858 hectares of Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals
- 729,606 hectares of Marine Reserves, including the 716,509 ha Kermadec Islands Marine Reserve.

Part of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park lies within the Boards' jurisdiction.

The Board's area of jurisdiction was set in 1990 when conservation boards were established. Two areas (Kermadec Islands and Pūkororo/Miranda) are no longer managed from the Department's Auckland office. The Board has informal arrangements with the Te Hiku o Te Ika and Waikato Conservation Boards that they will respectively be responsible for those areas until such time as the boundaries of the three boards are formally re-defined.

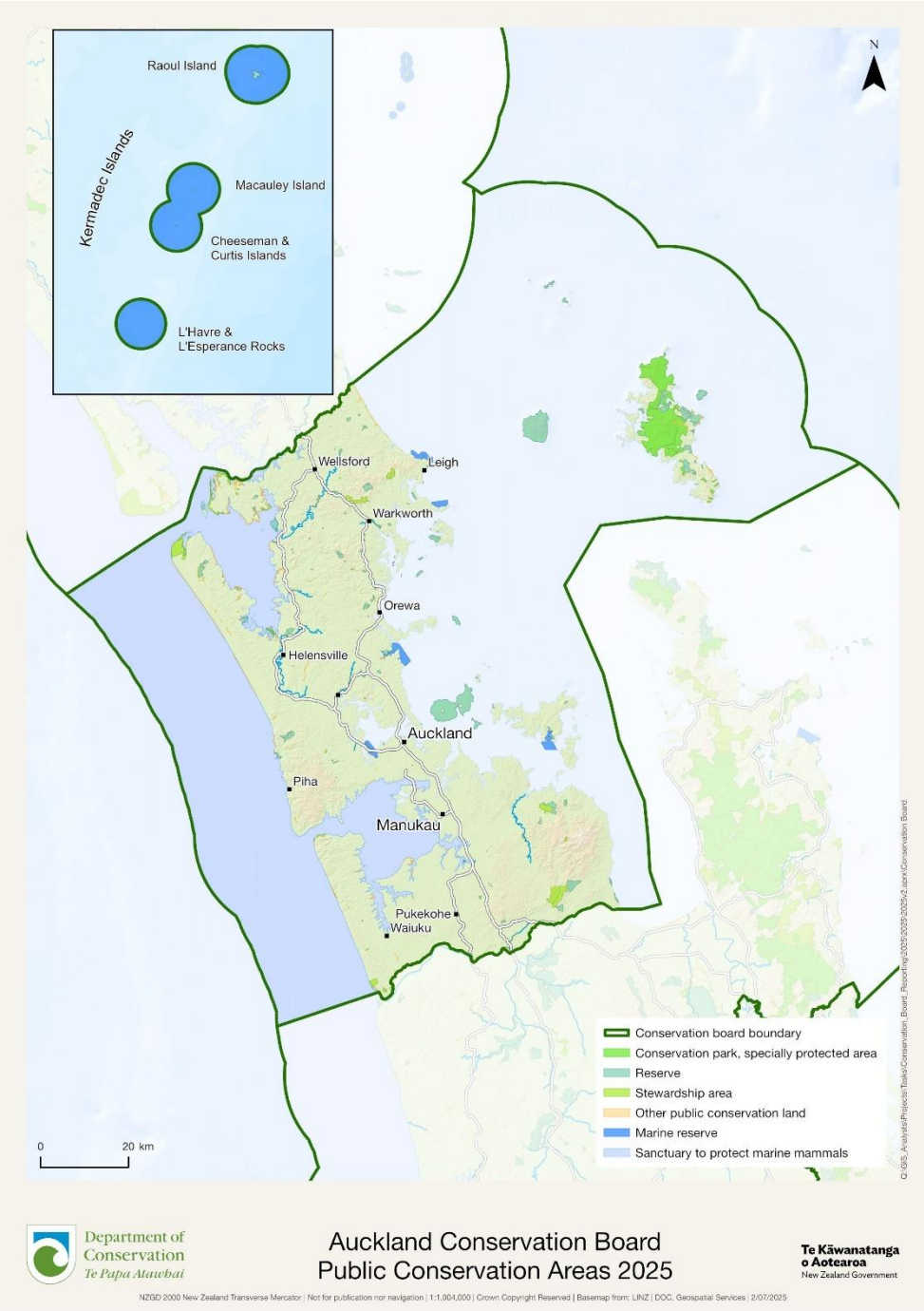


Figure 1. Auckland Conservation Board Jurisdiction

2.1 Tangata whenua

The Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland region has a strong and varied iwi landscape. 19 iwi groups have recognised interests in the region:

- Ngāti Manuhiri
- Ngāti Maru*
- Ngāti Pāoa*
- Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea
- Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki*
- Ngāti Tamaoho*
- Ngāti Tamaterā*
- Ngāti Te Ata*
- Ngāti Wai
- Ngāti Whanaunga*
- Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara*
- Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei*
- Te Ākitai Waiohua*
- Te Ahiwaru Waiohua
- Te Kawerau ā Maki*
- Te Patukirikiri*
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua*
- Te Uri o Hau
- Waikato-Tainui

13 iwi, indicated by *, are represented by Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau (the Tāmaki Collective), which signed the Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Deed with the Crown in 2012.

2.2 Conservation features of the area

The Board's district is a unique one in that it comprises the highly urbanised environment of the Auckland metropolitan area with one third of New Zealand's population, as well as extensive rural areas, remote offshore islands and marine environments. The Board recognises the importance of making conservation real for the 1.7 million people living in Auckland and delivering a first-class conservation experience for visitors to Auckland each year.

The Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland region encompasses areas of very significant European historical importance as well as areas of ecological, natural, and amenity value. They include the Firth of Thames, Kaipara Harbour, Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island, the Mokohinau island group, Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Rakitū, Tiritiri Mātangi and Motuora, and the inner Gulf Islands including Rangitoto, Motutapu and Te Motu-a-Ihenga/Motuihe, Mansion House on Kawau Island and the coastal defence installations at Fort Takapuna and Stony Batter on Waiheke Island. The Department manages about 60% of 28,000ha

Aotea/Great Barrier Island, which is approximately 40% of all public conservation land in the region.

The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit with respect to protected species. The marine environment is an especially important part of the Board's district and areas of interest, and its national significance was recognised by its declaration in 2000 as the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

The Hauraki Gulf/Tīkapa Moana/Te Moananui-ā-Toi contains 40 pest-free sanctuaries and is a stronghold for a huge number of indigenous species found nowhere else in the world, including threatened seabirds, shorebirds, marine mammals, fish and marine invertebrates.

The Board's area includes five marine reserves: Cape Rodney to Okakari Point (New Zealand's first marine reserve at Leigh), Motu Manawa/Pollen Island (in the inner Waitematā Harbour), Long Bay-Okura, Te Matuku (southwestern Waiheke Island), and Tāwharanui.

The main features of Public Conservation Land and Waters within the Board's boundaries are:

- Aotea Conservation Park – 12,896.05 ha
- 85 scenic reserves –6,735.54 ha
- 13 historic reserves – 307.22 ha
- 38 recreation reserves – 3,335.35 ha
- 68 stewardship areas – 4,794.85 ha
- 223 marginal strips – 948.58 ha
- 6 marine reserves – 719,606.16 ha
- 1 marine mammal sanctuary – 338,096.97 ha

2.3 Conservation issues in the area

Approximately 7.59% of all public conservation land in Aotearoa lie within the region. The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- **The need to connect more Aucklanders with nature and to provide sufficient infrastructure and facilities to safely support access** to conservation land for 1.7m Aucklanders, domestic visitors, and over 2.2m international visitors to Tāmaki Makaurau.
- **The protection and management of the many threatened species and ecosystems in the region**, due to destruction of habitat and the impact of development. While a number of threatened species have populations on pest free islands in the Hauraki Gulf or within mainland sanctuaries, there are many more species that do not have enough management attention. Many marine and freshwater species in particular are under huge pressure and require better regulatory protection.
- **The risks to indigenous species and ecosystems from the effects of climate change.** The Board has particular concern for those species that are already threatened and for which climate change will exacerbate adverse trends, and for those ecosystems that are limited in geographic scale and vulnerable to the changes that climate change will bring.

- **Understanding how to give effect to the aspirations of mana whenua in relation to conservation, and to give full effect to Treaty settlements,** including preparation of the Tāmaki Makaurau Motu Plan and the development of fit for purpose management planning documents.
- **Ensuring that the resource management system and related decisions does not further degrade important ecosystems or erode populations of threatened species and their habitats.** The Board has actively opposed the continuation of sand mining off Pākiri beach and a proposed landfill at Wayby Valley in the upper Hoteo catchment. Under the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024, the Board is now actively providing input to Auckland developments meeting the criteria for conservation approvals.
- **Supporting the goals of the New Zealand Predator Free 2050 strategy.** In the short to medium term the Board is concerned about how it can support the communities on inhabited islands such as Kawau, Waiheke and Aotea/Great Barrier to work towards becoming predator free.
- **Protecting and enhancing access to heritage sites.** There are a large number of heritage sites located on public conservation land within the region that are not being actively managed. There is a disproportionate lack of resources for heritage work in Auckland, and for providing high quality interpretation so visitors can understand the stories related to those sites and their importance.
- **Restoring Tīkapa Moana/Te Moananui-a-Toi/the Hauraki Gulf.** Since 2000 the series of "State of the Gulf" reports published by the Hauraki Gulf Forum have tracked an ongoing decline in the health of the Gulf, and there is widespread public concern about its ecological condition and support for efforts to restore the mauri of the Gulf. The Board considers that the Government's "Revitalising the Gulf" is a starting point and is working towards the goals of the Hauraki Gulf Forum, for at least 30% of the Gulf under some form of marine protection. The Board is also advocating for removal of trawling and dredging from the Gulf and associated measures to preserve depleted marine species such as koura, scallops and paua, and for the protection of seabirds.

3. FUNCTIONS

3.1 Board functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987

The current functions of the Board are:

1) To recommend the approval by the Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments
2) To approve conservation management plans, and the review an amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments
3) To advise the Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area within the jurisdiction of the Board
4) To advise the Authority or the Director-General on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance

5) To advise the Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board

6) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter within the jurisdiction of the Board

7) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

3.2 Board power under section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987

1) Every conservation board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.

2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each conservation board may –

   i. Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and

   ii. Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.

3) The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board's functions.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The Minister of Conservation appoints Board members under section 6P of the Conservation Act 1987. The process of appointment ensures that a range of perspectives, life experiences, and knowledge contribute to the advice provided and decisions made by the Board.

Board members are appointed for 3-year terms and may be re-appointed, unless they are appointed in replacement of a prior member's term. There were 11 Board members for the reporting year. Nicola MacDonald was Chairperson and Kate Waterhouse was Deputy Chairperson up to October 2024. Gael Ogilvie was elected Chairperson in December 2024 and Shane Lavery elected Deputy Chairperson in March 2025.

As new appointments to the Board were not made until November 2024, three members of the previous Board continued in their roles until October 2024.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025:

Board Member	Area	Term start	Term end
Dr Achyut Aryal	Auckland	01 July 2022	30 June 2025
Rahul Chopra	Auckland	01 July 2022	30 June 2025
Pippa Coom*	Auckland	01 July 2023	31 October 2024
Repeka George-Koteka	Auckland	01 November 2024	30 June 2027

Alan Goldman	Auckland	01 November 2024	30 June 2027
Nerissa Henry	Auckland	01 July 2022	30 June 2026
Mervyn Kerehoma	Auckland – Ngāti Whātua rōpū	01 July 2020	30 June 2026
Shane Lavery	Auckland	01 July 2021	30 June 2027
Nicola MacDonald*	Auckland	01 July 2018	31 October 2024
Tori Ngataki	Te Kauwhata – Waiohua Tāmaki rōpū	01 July 2023	30 June 2026
Gael Ogilvie	Auckland	01 July 2021	30 June 2025
Chris Severne	Auckland	01 July 2024	30 June 2025
Kate Waterhouse*	Auckland/Great Barrier Island	19 November 2019	31 October 2024
Fred Wilson	Waiuku – Marutūāhu rōpū	01 July 2023	30 June 2026

* These members continued in their role until replaced by new appointments made in November 2024 (pursuant to section 6R(5) Conservation Act 1987).

4.1 Members profiles

DR ACHYUT ARYAL: Dr Aryal brings extensive international experience in research, teaching, and leadership. He has conducted significant work on conservation and has deep expertise in species and biodiversity conservation. He is currently Director of Research and Director at AKA Education Group, Auckland; Adjunct Professor at Tribhuvan University; and Adjunct Fellow at the University of Technology Sydney. He previously served as Senior Adjunct Lecturer at Massey University and as CEO of CC Training Academy/Auckland College of Tertiary Studies and is currently a co-owner.

RAHUL CHOPRA: Rahul R Chopra is a Principal Advisor at ARHA, specialising in energy resilience and climate adaptation. He advises on distributed energy systems and risk governance and serves as a Risk Review Commissioner at the Climate Change Commission. Rahul also leads the NZ Sustainability & Policy Leaders Forum and has held governance roles across several environmental and energy organisations.

PIPPA COOM: Pippa brings extensive experience and knowledge of community conservation, community engagement, cultural competency, governance and planning. Until recently Ms Coom was an elected member of the Auckland Council and a former Co-chair of the Hauraki Gulf Forum, with extensive knowledge of regional environmental issues. Ms Coom has wide networks and experience of working with Māori and has experience working as a lawyer.

REPEKA GEORGE-KOTEKA: Repeka George-Koteka brings extensive experience in community engagement, cultural leadership, and systems change. She serves on the steering groups of Le Moana West and Te Wānanga o Aotearoa's He Waka Hiringa, contributing to advocacy in Indigenous and Pacific spaces. Repeka holds a Master of Applied Indigenous Knowledge and is the director of Ei Moana, a company supporting team development, cultural capability, and community wellbeing through Indigenous frameworks, wānanga, coaching, and strategic facilitation.

ALAN GOLDMAN: Alan brings a lifetime of international finance experience together with a sound knowledge of board governance and compliance. His passion for conservation started back in 1974. He has served as a board member of the South African Wildlife Society and prestigious Mauerberger Foundation. In New Zealand he is the Treasurer of the Auckland Flyfishing Angling Club. Alan has won a number of awards, is an internationally published author and continues to work in education and the wider Auckland community.

NERISSA HENRY (Ngāpuhi, NgāiTakoto, Ngāti Awa): Nerissa brings experience and knowledge of community conservation, community engagement, cultural competency, governance and planning to the Board. Ms Henry sits on a number of public bodies including the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board, the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority and the Tāmaki Estuary Environmental Forum, with wide connections to the Auckland community and volunteer sectors. Ms Henry has knowledge of kaitakitanga and the Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

MERVYN KEREHOMA (Ngāti Whātua o Ōrakei and Te Rarawa): Mervyn Dene Kerehoma. Mervyn has Whakapapa To. Te Rarawa Kaiwhare Ahipara. Wainui Marae. Ngāti Whatua Nui Tonu. Orakei Marae. Hokianga Nga Puhi. As a dedicated Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei representative Mervyn has led numerous ecological restoration projects across Tāmaki Makaurau, including Takaparawhau, Okahu Bay, and Kaipātiki. Mervyn plays a key role in infrastructure and environmental initiatives as an iwi representative at Auckland Council, CCOs, and government entities. He also serves on the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust and represents Ngāti Whātua in the Toi Tūhono forum.

SHANE LAVERY: Shane is an Associate Professor at the University of Auckland and offers over 40 years' experience in marine and terrestrial biological conservation research. He has extensive knowledge of biodiversity and has served on several advisory boards.

NICOLA RATA-MACDONALD MNZM (Ngāti Wai, Te Rarawa, Taranaki): Nicola is a strategic leader and environmental advocate. As Co-chair of the Hauraki Gulf Forum and lead technician for the National Iwi Chairs Forum Pou Tangaroa, she champions indigenous marine stewardship. Her achievements include large-scale mussel restoration, native tree planting, and marine innovation. Honoured as 2024 Environmental Hero of the Year and a 2025 MNZM recipient, she is the first indigenous woman to chair the Forum.

TORI NGATAKI (Ngāti Tamaoho, Te Waiohua, Waikato, Maniapoto): Tori is the Waiohua Tāmaki rōpū entity nominee. She is the current Chair of the Ngāti Tamaoho Settlement Trust. She completed her MBA in 2018 to support her aspirations to support her people regarding the revitalisation of their whakapapa, their taiao, and wellbeing. Currently they are working on revitalising indigenous fauna and flora around the Manukau Harbour and seeking to restore their cultural practices around these to enhance their whakapapa as Ngāti Tamaoho.

GAEL OGILVIE has extensive governance, strategic and operational experience in the conservation and broader environmental sector in Aotearoa NZ and overseas. She is currently Chair of the Auckland Conservation Board and a member of the National Waste

Advisory Board, the Hazardous Substance and New Organisms Committee and the NZ Ecolabelling Trust. Gael is an adjunct lecturer at Open Polytech and the Founder/Director of Nature's Grace Aotearoa New Zealand.

CHRIS SEVERNE: Chris brings to the Board his extensive commercial acumen, as well as a long history of involvement in environmental organisations including Bluegreens, Foundation North and the Nature Heritage Fund. He also Chairs the Opito Bay Ratepayers Association on the Coromandel where he has initiated several environmental restoration projects including a rahui on scallop harvesting working with local Iwi Ngati Hei.

KATE WATERHOUSE: Kate is an experienced business and conservation leader with strategy, and project experience across the public and private sector in New Zealand and overseas. Kate advocates for a collaborative approach to ecosystems restoration. Kate is Chair of the Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust, holds multiple project governance roles, served six years on the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee and five years on the Auckland Conservation Board. She is currently a curator at the NZ Maritime Museum.

FRED WILSON: Fred Wilson represents the Marutūāhu Collective on the Auckland Conservation Board. With a background at the Department of Conservation, he has worked closely with iwi, hapū, and communities on restoration and cultural projects. He's contributed to environmental efforts on the Āwhitu Peninsula and now serves as Principal Advisor at Kāinga Ora, focusing on the intersection of housing, whenua, and environmental outcomes. Fred is dedicated to strengthening Māori involvement in conservation and protecting te taiao for future generations.

5. MEETINGS AND FIELDTRIPS

The Board held 4 meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the meetings vary each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

Meeting date	Location/Venue
25 September 2024	Auckland Botanic Gardens, Manurewa, Auckland
4 December 2024	Ellen Melville Centre, CBD, Auckland
27 March 2025	Department of Conservation offices, Okiwi, Gt Barrier
4 June 2025	Studio One – Toi Tū, Grey Lynn, Auckland

The Board also held 4 workshops during the year to focus on specific matters, one of which was a joint workshop with the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee.

Workshop date	Location/Venue
24 July 2024	Department of Conservation offices, CBD, Auckland
12 February 2025	Department of Conservation offices, CBD, Auckland

28 March 2025*	Department of Conservation offices, Okiwi, Gt Barrier
14 May 2025	Ngāti Whātua Whai Maia offices, Ōrākei, Auckland

*Joint workshop with Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee

5.1 Agendas

The Board hosted and heard from 10 non-Departmental speakers at its public meetings:

- Mina Pomare, Chair Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board, presented to the Board about the development of the Te Hiku o Te Ika-a-Māui Conservation Management Strategy (25 September 2024 meeting).
- Fletcher Beazley, Chief Executive of the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust (and who is also Operations Manager Aotea, Department of Conservation), welcomed the Board to Aotea/Great Barrier and provided an overview of the cultural significance of the island and its natural and cultural resources, and priorities for his iwi (27 March 2025 meeting).
- Representatives of five community groups spoke to the Board at its meeting on Aotea/Great Barrier Island (27 March 2025 meeting). They spoke about the objectives and locations of their projects, what their resourcing needs were and how the Board could support them. Speakers included:
    - Makere Jenner and Sonya Williams from Tū Mai Taonga
    - Raoul Stewart from Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision
    - Judy Gilbert from Windy Hill Sanctuary
    - Clint Stannard from Motu Kaikoura Trust
    - Kate Waterhouse from Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust
- At the same meeting a panel discussion was convened to discuss how to work together to amplify conservation outcomes on Aotea/Great Barrier Island. Panel members included:
    - Izzy Fordham, Chair, Aotea Great Barrier Local Board
    - Sam Hill, General Manager Environmental Services, Auckland Council
    - Alex Rogers, Director Operations, Department of Conservation
    - Fletcher Beazley, Operations Manager Aotea, Department of Conservation
- Katina Conomos, Kaihautū / Programme Director for the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust, presented to the Board about the work of the Trust to restore kūtai/mussel reefs in the Hauraki Gulf (4 June 2025 meeting).
- Steve Halley and Kathryn Lister, Fisheries New Zealand, updated the Board about the work undertaken by Fisheries New Zealand to implement the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan and about proposals for reform of the Fisheries Act 1983 (4 June 2025 meeting).

Department staff also attended public meetings throughout the year. Presentations included:

- Carl Walrond, Programme Manager – Future Visitor Network, Wellington, presented to the Board about planning for the future of the Department's visitor network (25 September 2024 meeting).
- Kirsty Prior, Operations Manager Marine, Department of Conservation, presented to the Board to provide an overview of the Department's preparations for implementation

of the Hauraki Gulf /Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill once it was enacted (4 June 2025 meeting).

- The Board received a presentation from the Department to update them on work on the recovery of the endangered species tuturuatu/shore plover (24 July 2024 workshop).

The agendas and minutes from all Board meetings can be found on the Board's webpage.

Board workshops are not open to the public and minutes of workshops are not kept.

5.2 Field trips and site inspections

Field trips are an excellent opportunity for Board members to become more aware of conservation issues within their region.

- While the Board was on Aotea/Great Barrier former Board member Kate Waterhouse hosted the Board on several short field visits to Whangapoua beach and Okiwi reserve. On their return to the airport at Claris the Board visited Windy Canyon (27-28 March 2025).
- Board member Mervyn Kerehoma hosted the Board at the Ngāti Whātua Whaia Maia offices for a workshop. After the workshop concluded, Mervyn guided members around Takaparawhau and through the Ōrākei marae complex, explaining some of the history and the ecological restoration work undertaken by the iwi (14 May 2025 workshop).

5.3 Members' attendance 2024/25

Board Member	Meetings (total 4)	Fieldtrips (total 2)
Achyut Aryal	1	0
Rahul Chopra	4	1
Pippa Coom*	1	0
Repeka George-Koteka	3	2
Alan Goldman	2	0
Nerissa Henry	4	2
Mervyn Kerehoma	2	1
Shane Lavery	3	2
Nicola MacDonald*	1	0
Tori Ngataki	0	0
Gael Ogilvie	4	2
Chris Severne	3	2
Kate Waterhouse*	1	0

Fred Wilson	4	1

6. MAHI

6.1 Board Committees

The Conservation Act 1987 enables the Board to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated by the Board. Committees that were active during the reporting period, and members involved in those committees included:

- **Communications:** the purpose of this committee was to co-ordinate the Board's public communications, in accordance with the Board's Communications Plan that had been recently revised and adopted in the 2024/2025 year. During the year the Board posted regularly on its Facebook page (also see section 8.5, Community Visibility).

  Members: Achyut Aryal, Pippa Coom, Repeka George-Koteka

- **Statutory:** the purpose of this committee was to lead the Board's work on providing advice to the Department on applications for statutory consents and statutory land management proposals referred to the Board. Applications for concessions are referred to the Board under triggers it adopted in 2018.

  A significant new responsibility for the Board, led by the Statutory Subcommittee, was introduced under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2014. Under the Act the Board is invited to comment on applications that include a "conservation approval", under tight timeframes and with no additional resourcing. During the year the Board's comments were sought on 1 application from Port of Auckland Ltd. for consents for the extension of Ferguson and Bledisloe wharves.

  During the reporting year the Board's comments were sought on 7 applications for various types of consents (see section 8.2 for a list). In addition, the Board's comments were sought on 3 statutory land management proposals (also see section 8.2).

  Members: Kate Waterhouse*, Mervyn Kerehoma, Nerissa Henry, Chris Severne

6.2 Special events

The Board had representatives attend several special events during the year including the annual Climate Change & Business Conference hosted by the Environmental Defense Society (9-10 September 2024), the annual North Island Hector's and Māui dolphin Forum (September 2024), the Oceans Symposium (12 May 2025) and the annual Tara-iti Forum in Wellsford (16 June 2025). As part of the Board's visit to Aotea/Great Barrier Island members attended the opening pōwhiri for the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust's Taiao wānanga at Kawa marae (27 March 2025).

6.3 Training for members

Newly appointed members to the Board were provided with information during an induction on 21 November 2024.

7. STATUTORY ACTIVITY

7.1 Annual Work Plan

After receiving its Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation, the Board sets out its work plan for the upcoming year. The Board developed its Work Plan in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation sent to the New Zealand Conservation Authority dated 18 September 2024. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

The Board's strategic priorities were:

- Meet Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsibilities and strengthen relationships with iwi/hapu
- Target high priority conservation outcomes
- Amplify community-led conservation and heritage protection.
- Support nature- based solutions to reduce carbon emissions and build resilience to climate change.

7.2 Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The Auckland CMS was approved in 2014. It contains milestones that were designed to be measurable steps towards achieving the outcomes and policies in the CMS. During the year the Board agreed to a proposed programme of consolidated reporting on implementation by theme (25 September 2024 meeting). However such reports were not commissioned for subsequent meetings due to other priorities which required the Board's focus.

The Board has in previous years indicated that it was satisfied overall with the progress made towards implementation of the CMS and with the range and amount of work completed. However, they had also noted concern that there are some pieces of work that were yet to be commenced or were not being completed within the timeframes indicated in the CMS.

The Board notes that the nominal term of the CMS term was 10 years and consider that it is no longer fit for purpose and is overdue for review. The Board has previously provided feedback to this effect through submissions. In February 2025 the Board submitted on proposals released by the Minister of Conservation to significantly amend the statutory management planning system. The Board expressed deep concern at the proposed dilution of its role in the development and approval of area plans, which were proposed to replace both CMSs and CMPs to create one single layer of plans.

7.3 Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Conservation Management Plan (CMP)

The Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island CMP was approved in 2017. It was developed by the Board in conjunction with the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and is an important part of redress for Ngāti Manuhiri under their Treaty settlement. The Board received a presentation from Terrance (Mook) Hohneck, Chair of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, about the development of the CMP, its importance to Ngāti Manuhiri, and progress towards its implementation late in the previous reporting year (19 June 2024 meeting).

Nicola MacDonald, Chair of the Board until October 2025, was Acting Chief Executive of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust during that period. In that capacity she worked closely with the Department on monitoring and implementation of the CMP

7.4 Tāmaki Makaurau Motu Plan (the Motu Plan)

The Board was disappointed that a further year passed without any progress to begin development of a Conservation Management Plan for the inner motu/islands of the Hauraki Gulf (ie. Rangitoto, Motutapu and Motuihe/Te Motu-a-Ihenga). The Motu Plan is a requirement under the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act

2014. It is to be developed and approved by the Board in conjunction with the Tūpuna Taonga o Tāmaki Makaurau Trust, which represents the interests of the 13 iwi that comprise the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective. The Motu Plan is an important milestone in the Auckland CMS.

Despite the Board's advocacy about the importance of the Motu Plan over a number of years, no progress was achieved in the reporting year. Resolving the resourcing issues that are behind the delay are beyond the Board's scope of influence at this time. Given the current Government's proposed changes to conservation management legislation, it is likely that an "Area Plan" will be prepared for the inner Hauraki Gulf islands, in accordance with future legislative provisions.

8. ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise, and some members have specific roles in liaison. The Board appointed a member to liaise with one key group during the year:

Board member	Organisation/Group/Agency
Shane Lavery	Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Kate Waterhouse held an informal liaison relationship with the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee.

8.1 Board and Authority liaisons

The Board holds a liaison relationship with neighbouring conservation boards. Liaison roles for the reporting year were held by:

- Nicola MacDonald/Nerissa Henry – Liaison to Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board
- Kate Waterhouse/Rahul Chopra – Liaison to Northland Conservation Board
- Tori Ngataki/Chris Severne – Liaison for Waikato Conservation Board

During the year the Board worked in collaboration with:

- Te Hiku o Te Ika and Northland Conservation Boards to oppose any provisions in the proposed Treaty Principles Bill that would adversely affect Treaty partners
- Waikato Conservation Board to progress our shared focus on shorebird and seabird conservation

The Authority has a liaison member with the Board to facilitate communication. The Authority liaison attends Board meetings, and reports to the full Authority on matters raised. Ina Kara-France was the Authority's liaison for the reporting year.

8.2 Advice to the Department

The Board provided formal written advice to the Department on the following issues:

- An application from the Matakana Trails Trust for a lease to construct and maintain a shared pathway through Lawries Scenic Reserve (October 2024)
- An application from the Kiwi Trust to translocate kiwi from Pōnui to Waiheke (November 2024)

- A proposal for an exchange of part of a marginal strip for an area of private land on Waiheke (December 2024)
- An application from Pou Tangata Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Community Development Trust to operate the Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp (MOEC) on Motutapu Island (December 2024)
- An application from the Ngāti Paoa Iwi Trust to lease a building in Glen Innes (April 2025)
- A proposal to appoint Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki to control and manage 8 small parts of Motutapu (April 2025)
- Public notification of a proposed reduction in the width of a marginal strip in Henderson (May 2025)
- An application from the Kau Fefine Fakana'ana'a Trust to renew their lease over a building in Mt. Roskill (June 2025)
- An application from Executive Trustees Ltd. to attach a pontoon to an existing wharf in Te Matuku Marine Reserve (June 2025)
- An application from Kawau Catering Ltd. who sought renewal of a lease to operate the café in Mansion House Valley on Kawau (June 2025).

8.3 Submissions

The Board advocated its interests during the reporting period through a number of submissions, available to read on its webpage:

- To the Auckland Council on future options to protect Auckland's environment from biosecurity threats (December 2024)
- To the Department of Conservation on proposals for introducing access charging and amending conservation legislation to streamline land management (February 2025)
- To the Ministry of Primary Industries (Fisheries New Zealand) on proposed amendments to the Fisheries Act 1996 (April 2025)
- To the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee on the Regulatory Standards Bill (June 2025)
- To the Department of Conservation on the draft Te Mana o Te Taio Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Implementation-Plan 2025-2030 (June 2025)
- To the Department of Conservation on the Predator Free 2050 Strategy Review (June 2025)
- To the Expert Panel appointed under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 to decide on an application from Port of Auckland Ltd. to extend Bledisloe and Fergusson wharves (June 2025)
- To the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee on the Regulatory Standards Bill (June 2025).

The Board also wrote letters to advocate its views on several matters during the year, including"

- To the Minister of Conservation expressing concerns about the Treaty Principles Bill, in conjunction with the Te Hiku o Te Ika and Northland Conservation Boards (September 2024)

- To the Prime Minister and Minister of Conservation to advocate for enactment of the Tīkapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill (June 2025).

8.4 Iwi liaison and advocacy

The Board continues to prioritise giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi as part of its core commitment to achieving improved conservation outcomes through collaborative iwi partnerships.

The Board welcomes opportunities to meet with representatives of iwi to understand the perspective of mana whenua on conservation issues in the region. As part of every meeting the Board invites iwi representatives to share their history and local conservation perspectives and priorities with members. This provides a mechanism for building shared awareness among all members.

All Board submissions to the Government are prepared on the basis of our fundamental aspiration to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. During the year the Board advocated strongly against the Treat Principles Bill in a letter to the Minister of Conservation jointly signed with chairs of the Te Hiku o Te Ika and Northland Conservation Boards (September 2024).

During the year the Board joined with Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea and participated in the pōwhiri which opened their Taio (Environment) Wānanga, at Kawa marae. At its meeting later that day the Board heard from Fletcher Beazley, Chair of the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust, about their history and the cultural landscape of Aotea (27 March 2025 meeting).

As part of a workshop held at the offices of Whai Maia, a charitable entity established to further the social and cultural development of Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei, Board member Mervyn Kerehoma described their history and took members on a tour of Takaparawhau/Bastion Point and through the Ōrākei marae complex.

8.5 Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Meetings were held in different parts of the Auckland region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised.

The Board initiated a practice of inviting representatives from community organisations to present during the public forum at each meeting. The Board appreciated their input and efforts made to attend the meetings.

Public forum issues raised were:

- Makere Jenner and Sonia Williams from Tū Mai Taonga spoke about the opportunity to restore the environment on Aotea/Great Barrier Island through their rodent and feral cats' eradication program, their a 100-year vision, and the incorporation of Te Ao Māori values and tikanga, learning te reo and turangawaewae. (27 March 2025 meeting).
- Raoul Stewart from Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision (OME) spoke about their project to undertake wetland restoration, and which has now moved into landscape-scale pest control, and their priorities which include improved pest control and public education (27 March 2025 meeting).
- Judy Gilbert from the Windy Hill Sanctuary spoke about their work over the last 25 years on integrated pest management, supporting local translocations, creation of conservation jobs and the involvement of community, and which now covers 18 properties with 56 landowners, plus three DOC areas (27 March 2025 meeting).

- Clint Stannard from the Motu Kaikoura Trust spoke the history of Motu Kaikōura, a large island next to Aotea covering over 560 hectares over which they undertake a restoration programme including pest eradication aimed at keeping rats at low densities (27 March 2025 meeting).
- Kate Waterhouse from the Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust spoke about the history and work of the Trust, and their priorities which are to remove pests and reintroduce species (27 March 2025 meeting).
- Katina Conomos from Revive Our Gulf spoke about the work of the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust (MRRT), highlighting the need for community collaboration due to variable funding, the challenges of marine restoration and ethe need for strategic approaches to protect the Hauraki Gulf. MRRT is also exploring ways to enhance natural processes for kutai/mussel reef restoration (4 June 2025 meeting).

These were predominantly voluntary groups carrying out huge amounts of conservation work within the community. The Board recognises and appreciates volunteers and thanks them for the work done in this area.

The opportunity to further protect and restore the significant biodiversity on Aotea/Great Barrier Island, which was highlighted by the speakers at the Board's meeting on the island on 27 March 2025, provided a basis for subsequent discussions with the Department of Conservation, the Auckland Council and the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee about how to better make the case for increased investment into conservation on Aotea/Great Barrier. Towards this end in June 2025 the Board funded the preparation of an investment case, which can be used to support engagement with agencies, philanthropists, funding bodies and others to highlight the benefits that would flow from investment in conservation on the island.

8.6 Community visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website, and via the quarterly Conservation Boards' Newsletter. The Board also maintained a Facebook page on which it posted about items of interest during the year.

It continues to be an objective of the Board to improve its public visibility and its effectiveness as a channel for the conservation concerns of the community. However, the Board is allocated minimal funds for operations and has no dedicated communications resources. The Board continues to consider this gap to be an area that the Department needs to address if it wishes to improve the Board's performance and outcomes in Tāmaki Makaurau.

As described above (section 8.4) during the reporting year the Board initiated a practice of inviting representatives from community organisations to present during the public forum at each meeting. This serves to raise the Board's profile and visibility among local communities. Raising the profile of the Board among Auckland's large urban population is however a significant challenge.

8.7 District and regional council advocacy and advice

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the Auckland Council, which is a unitary authority for the Auckland Region. Many of the regional issues in which the Board is interested require collaboration with Auckland Council or individual Local Boards.

The Board invited to its meeting on Aotea/Great Barrier Izzy Fordham, Chair of the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board, and Sam Hill, General Manager Environmental Services in

Auckland Council. During the meeting they participated in a panel discussion about conservation on the island and the case for greater investment.

Also, during the year, the Board submitted on an Auckland Council discussion paper on future options to protect Auckland's environment from biosecurity threats (December 2024).

Board members also hold their own relationships with councillors, Local Board members and with Council officers, facilitating communication on specific issues.

9. FEES AND ALLOWANCES

Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. The chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of $330, and other Authority members receive a daily meeting fee of $250.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board wishes to acknowledge three members who continued as members for an additional four months pending the appointment of new members in November 2024. All three members contributed significantly to the Board's work during their terms. Nicola MacDonald was a member for 6 years, serving as chair for 3 years up to October 2024. Kate Waterhouse also served for 6 years and led much of the Board's statutory and advocacy work as chair of its Statutory (formerly Concessions) Subcommittee. Pippa Coom served for just over 1 year and was a member of the Communications Subcommittee.

The Board would also like to acknowledge and thank John Galilee (Statutory Manager) and Emma Smith (Board Support Officer) for their support during the year.

Auckland Conservation Board Work Programme

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

This Auckland Conservation Board (ACB) annual work programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation sent to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (18th September 2024) and with reference to Conservation Board responsibilities as currently set out in the Conservation Act 1987.

The four focus areas for the remainder of the 2024/2025 year for the Auckland Conservation Board are to:

- Meet Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsibilities and strengthen relationships with iwi/hapu
- Target high priority conservation outcomes
- Amplify community-led conservation and heritage protection.
- Support nature- based solutions to reduce carbon emissions and build resilience to climate change.

Throughout this work programme, the ACB will work effectively to maintain a positive and trusted relationship with Te Papa Atawhai and contribute to the Conservation Regulatory Reform.

The work programme does not include further progress on the Auckland Conservation planning documents (the Conservation Management Plan and the Conservation Management Strategy) as these are the subject of proposed reform during 2025.

This work programme is structured into three parts:

- Part A: Priority Focus Areas
- Part B: Working effectively
- Part C risk and opportunities

The work programme will be used to inform ACB meeting agendas and actions and will form the basis for the 2024/2025 annual ACB report. Status of the proposed actions will be updated using traffic light colour coding.

Status indicator:

Colour	Indicates
	Completed
	Started and is ongoing
	Not started yet

Part A: Priority Focus Areas

1. Meet Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsibilities and strengthen relationships with iwi/hapu

The Board will improve its understanding of its responsibilities under section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, to give effect to the principles of the Treaty.

The Board will improve the cultural competency of all members so they can all engage with mana whenua and have an understanding of Te Ao Māori.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Continue to support as required Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust to review progress on the Hauturu-o-Toi CMP, and plan for its review.		The Chair of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust provided an update to the Board on implementation of the CMP and their desire for a review immediately before the reporting period (June 2024).
B	Support mana whenua by advocating to Ministers for progress on the Motu Plan.		The Board sought occasional updates from the Department, but understood that until resourcing issues are resolved progress is unlikely,
C	Include education awareness of Treaty responsibilities and the Conservation Act, section 4 in board discussions.		Gaining a greater understanding of the cultural context for mana whenua was a focus. The Board invited representatives from iwi to speak about their history, cultural context and aspirations, when the Board met in their rohe. The Board heard from Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea (March 2025) and Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei (May 2025) representatives. The Board sought to uphold section 4, including by advocating against the Treaty Principles Bill (September 2024).
D	Support alliances and relationships with Te Papa Runanga boards. • Te Hiku o te Ika • Te Taitokerau • Waikato		While the Board did not hold any joint meetings or workshops during the year, it did maintain its liaison roles and attendance at meetings of neighbouring boards. The Board invited the Chair of Te Hiku o te Ika Conservation Board, Mina Pomare, to present to it about the development of the Te Hiku o Te Ika-o-Māui CMS (September 2024).

E	Board develops high-level understanding of Treaty Settlements.		As part of its efforts to gaining a greater understanding of the context for mana whenua, the Board learnt about respective Treaty settlements when it heard from invited representatives of iwi who spoke to the Board when meetings were held in their rohe.

2 Target High Priority Conservation Outcomes

The Board will take up opportunities to advocate for nature and the protection and restoration of biodiversity in the Auckland region, with a particular focus on marine and freshwater ecosystems. The Board will strengthen its knowledge on the new regulatory and consenting systems to better advance environmental protection and outcomes.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Advocate for increased marine protection, including the protection of seabirds and their habitats.		The outgoing chair, Nicola MacDonald, was also chair of the Exotic Caulerpa Advisory Group and strongly advocated for greater resources to combat the invasive seaweed. The Board advocated for improved outcomes for fisheries in its submission on proposals to amend the Fisheries Act 1996 (April 2025)
B	Support implementation of *Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change Plan*		The Board wrote to the Prime Minister and Minister of Conservation immediately before the reporting period (June 2024) and again in June 2025, to encourage them to enact the Tīkapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill.
C	Advocate and where possible amplify current conservation work in Aotea		The Board visited Aotea/Great Barrier in March 2025 and used the opportunity to hear from Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea, island-based community groups and the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board about the restoration potential of the island and the need for greater investment in conservation on the island. The Board funded preparation of an investment case which can be used to promote Aotea as a place where conservation needs increased funding (June 2025).
D	Work with Te Papa Atawhai/the Department to understand the new regulatory and consenting systems.		Conservation board chairs received a presentation on the role of conservation boards under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2014 (March 2025), which was then shared with members. Additional advice and support was sought from the Department during the latter part of the

			reporting period. The Board was invited to provide comment on an application under the Act from Port of Auckland Ltd (June 2025).

3 Amplify community-led conservation and heritage protection

The Board will seek to increase public support for conservation and restoration outcomes by advocating for improved access to nature and heritage.

The Board will gain an improved understanding of local community priorities and needs for the conservation of nature and heritage at place.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Advocate in support of increased opportunities for improved access to nature and heritage.		The Board submitted on the discussion paper released by the Minister of Conservation about the possible introduction of access charging for selected high volume visitor sites, supporting the introduction of access charging provided that the revenue earned was directed towards maintaining and upgrading facilities at those sites.
B	Use Board channels to celebrate successful examples of mana whenua and community led conservation.		The Board maintained a Facebook page during the reporting year, publishing posts from time to time which highlighted examples of mana whenua or community led conservation, including those groups who spoke to the Board during the public forum on Aotea/Great Barrier (27 March 2025 meeting).
C	Increase the reach of community engagement with the board through various channels and platforms.		The Board maintained a Facebook page during the reporting year, publishing posts from time to time which helped to engage with a wider audience. The Board proactively invited a number of mana whenua and community groups to engage with it at its meetings during the year, which raised the Board's profile among those groups and helped to identify ways by which the board could support and amplify their work.

4 Support nature-based solutions to reduce carbon emissions and build resilience to climate change

The Board will support measures required for climate change adaptation and resilience, including nature-based solutions, and factor climate change into its advice and advocacy.

The Board will lead by example and reduce its own carbon footprint and maintain a low carbon emissions profile.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Advocate in support of nature-based solutions for carbon sinks, as a mechanism for generating sustainable revenue for conservation and for adaptation and resilience.		Advocacy for nature-based solutions for carbon sinks was incorporated into a range of submissions as relevant. These included the Board's submission on Conservation Land Management (Feb 2025) and the draft Te Mana o Te Taio Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan for 2025-2030 (June 2025).
B	Increase awareness of climate impacts and support building climate resilience across DoC reserves and public spaces.		Highlighted climate impacts in workshop and meeting discussions. In particular, provided input to DOC plans for track rebuilds following Auckland flooding events.
C	Understand how climate change will impact biodiversity and heritage in the region, and advocate for the management of impacts.		The Board continued to express its desire to better understand the impacts of climate change on Auckland's biodiversity and heritage and raised awareness among key agencies such as the Department and Auckland Council of the need for better alignment and shared information. The Board sought an update from Auckland Council on the likely impacts of climate change on the marine environment of the Hauraki Gulf, but this was postponed to the next reporting period (August 2025). Updated understanding through attendance at Climate Change & Business Conference (September 2024).

Part B: Working Effectively

5 Working Effectively

The Board will:

- *maintain a positive and trusted working relationship with Te Papa Atawhai/the Department*
- *work closely with neighbouring conservation boards (Te Hiku o te Ika, Te Taitokerau, Waikato) and develop a common position on shared issues of significance*
- *contribute to proposed Conservation Reforms and fulfil its statutory obligations*

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Work closely with Te Papa Atawhai/the Department to understand issues so the Board can advise and advocate with most effect.		The Board worked closely with the Department throughout the reporting period. The Chair met weekly with support staff and regularly engaged directly with the Director Regional Operations. The Board regularly sought and received information and advice from the Department, with examples including conservation work being undertaken on Aotea/Great Barrier and the Board's role under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.
B	Create strong working relationships with neighbouring conservation boards, including joint wānanga on subjects of shared concern.		The Board maintained strong working relationships with the chairs of the Te Hiku o Te Ika, Northland and Waikato Conservation Boards, with the emphasis depending on the nature of the issues being considered at the time. As an example, the Chair co-signed a letter with the Chairs of the two northern conservation boards advocating against the Treaty Principes Bill (September 2024). While no joint wānanga were held during the year, the Board's liaison members attended a number of meetings of the three adjoining Boards.
C	Build a working relationship with the NZCA through their designated liaison member for Tāmaki.		The Board maintained a working relationship with the NZCA liaison member for Auckland, Ina Kara-France. Ms Kara-France attended most of the Boards' meetings during the year and contributed updates about the NZCA's work and

			advice on issues that the Board was considering. She was invited to all Board meetings and workshops. Attended NZCA Fast-Track subcommittee meeting (June 2025) to assist coordination of Commentaries on first Project.
D	Understand and fulfil the Board's statutory obligations and provide advice or advocate when comments are sought from the Board or opportunities arise.		The Board understood its statutory obligations to provide advice when its comments were sought, and to advocate for conservation when opportunities arose that were either of national or regional import. During the year the Board provided comments to the Department on ten statutory applications or proposals. As noted above, during the year the Board took steps to learn about and understand its role under the new Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, and submitted comments on one application made under the Act.
E	Contribute to relevant submission opportunities as they arise.		The Board took up a number of opportunities during the year to submit on matters that were of significance to conservation in the region and nationally. During the year the Board lodged seven submissions, including on a far-reaching set of proposed changes to conservation legislation released by the Minister of Conservation.

Part C: Risks and Opportunities

6 Risks identified from the Board's perspective

A	A change of Ministerial expectations and priorities in relation to prioritisation of developing revenue-generating systems over environmental outcomes.
B	No visibility of how Te Mana of te Taio will be implemented in the region.
C	No visibility of how agencies are working together to prepare for the effects of climate change on biodiversity.
D	Limited resources to deliver the Board's statutory functions and Ministerial expectations.
E	Resourcing available to the Department to meet the expectations of mana whenua, the wider community and the Government.

7 Opportunities for conservation growth in the Board's rohe

A	Leveraging *Revitalising the Gulf* proposals to support increased marine protection, including local community management of coastal areas.
B	Increasing relevance to attract other sources of funding such as philanthropic avenues to support large scale conservation outcomes.
C	Leadership by mana whenua in the region to achieve environmental outcomes ki uta ki tai.
D	Growing public awareness of the need to take action to address biodiversity loss and the impacts of a warming climate.
E	Increasing public interest in connecting to nature and the benefits of participating in conservation and restoration projects.

Back cover / Photo

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend conservation board meetings.

If you would like more information on the Auckland Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the board support officer, at the Department of Conservation by e-mail to aucklandconservationboard@doc.govt.nz.

Auckland Conservation Board Meeting No. 169	Agenda Item: 10

REPORT

Meeting Date: 10 September 2025

Prepared By: John Galilee, Statutory Manager

Subject: **Approval of Annual Work Plan 2025/26**

ACB Strategic Priority and/or the Relevant DOC SOI Goal	Each year the Board develops and approves an Annual Work Plan identifying strategic priority areas of focus for the year. The completed Annual Work Plan recording achievements over the year forms part of the Board's Annual Report.
Recommendation or Action Required	It is recommended that the Conservation Board: a) **Approve** the Annual Work Plan for the 2025/2026 year.
Context	The Board is required to prepare an Annual Work Plan each year. The Conservation Board Manual recommends that the Annual Work Plan is prepared by the end of September each year. At the conclusion of each year the Annual Work Plan is updated with a record of achievements, and it then forms part of the Board's Annual Report. Up until 2024 the Annual Work Plans for each conservation board were informed by a Letter of Expectation received from the Minister of Conservation, however that is no longer the case. In 2024 a letter from the Minister to the NZ Conservation Authority (NZCA) setting out his priorities was circulated by the NZCA to conservation boards. The Board did not approve its final Annual Work Plan for 2024/2025 until its meeting on 27 March 2025.The Board has been of the view that as the document was finalised and approved relatively late in the 2024/2025 year it would still be largely fit for purpose for the 2025/206 year. The draft Annual Work Plan was circulated to members for their review and comment on 19 August 2025. Relatively little feedback was received. It is recommended that the Board approve the 2025/2026 Annual Work Plan.

Auckland Conservation Board Work Programme

1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

This Auckland Conservation Board (ACB) annual work programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation sent to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (18th September 2024) and with reference to Conservation Board responsibilities as currently set out in the Conservation Act 1987.

The four focus areas for the remainder of the 2025/2026 year for the Auckland Conservation Board are to:

- Meet Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsibilities and strengthen relationships with iwi/hapu
- Target high priority conservation outcomes
- Amplify community-led conservation and heritage protection.
- Support nature- based solutions to reduce carbon emissions and build resilience to climate change.

Throughout this work programme, the ACB will work effectively to maintain a positive and trusted relationship with Te Papa Atawhai and contribute to the Conservation Regulatory Reform.

The work programme does not include further progress on the Auckland conservation planning documents (the Tāmaki Makaurau Motu Plan, the Hauturu Plan and the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy) as these are the subject of proposed reform during 2025.

This work programme is structured into three parts:

- Part A: Priority Focus Areas
- Part B: Working effectively
- Part C Risks and opportunities

The work programme will be used to inform ACB meeting agendas and actions and will form the basis for the 2025/2026 annual ACB report. Status of the proposed actions will be updated using traffic light colour coding.

Part A: Priority Focus Areas

1. Meet Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsibilities and strengthen relationships with iwi/hapu

The Board will improve its understanding of its responsibilities under section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, to give effect to the principles of the Treaty.

The Board will improve the cultural competency of all members so they can all engage with mana whenua and have an understanding of Te Ao Māori.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Continue to support as required Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust to review progress on the Hauturu Plan, and plan for its review.		
B	Support mana whenua by advocating to Ministers for progress on the Motu Plan.		
C	Include education awareness of Treaty responsibilities and section 4 of the Conservation Act in board discussions.		
D	Support alliances and relationships with Te Papa Runanga boards. • Te Hiku o te Ika • Te Taitokerau • Waikato		
E	Board develops high-level understanding of Treaty Settlements.		

2 Target High Priority Conservation Outcomes

The Board will take up opportunities to advocate for nature and the protection and restoration of biodiversity in the Auckland region, with a particular focus on marine and freshwater ecosystems. The Board will strengthen its knowledge on the new regulatory and consenting systems to better advance environmental protection and outcomes.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Advocate for increased marine protection, including the protection of seabirds and their habitats.		
B	Support implementation of *Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change Plan*		
C	Advocate and where possible amplify current conservation work in Aotea		
D	Work with Te Papa Atawhai/the Department to understand the new regulatory and consenting systems.		

3 Amplify community-led conservation and heritage protection

The Board will seek to increase public support for conservation and restoration outcomes by advocating for improved access to nature and heritage.

The Board will gain an improved understanding of local community priorities and needs for the conservation of nature and heritage at place.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Advocate in support of increased opportunities for improved access to nature and heritage.		
B	Use Board channels to celebrate successful examples of mana whenua and community led conservation.		
C	Increase the reach of community engagement with the board through various channels and platforms.		

4 Support nature-based solutions to reduce carbon emissions and build resilience to climate change

The Board will support measures required for climate change adaptation and resilience, including nature-based solutions, and factor climate change into its advice and advocacy.

The Board will lead by example and reduce its own carbon footprint and maintain a low carbon emissions profile.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Advocate in support of nature-based solutions for carbon sinks, as a mechanism for generating sustainable revenue for conservation and for adaptation and resilience.		
B	Increase awareness of climate impacts and support building climate resilience across DoC reserves and public spaces.		
C	Understand how climate change will impact biodiversity and heritage in the region, and advocate for the management of impacts.		

Part B: Working Effectively

The Board will:

- *maintain a positive and trusted working relationship with Te Papa Atawhai/the Department*
- *work closely with neighbouring conservation boards (Te Hiku o te Ika, Te Taitokerau, Waikato) and develop a common position on shared issues of significance*
- *contribute to proposed Conservation Reforms and fulfil its statutory obligations*

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Work closely with Te Papa Atawhai/the Department to understand issues so the Board can advise and advocate with most effect.		
B	Create strong working relationships with neighbouring conservation boards, including joint wananga on subjects of shared concern.		
C	Build a working relationship with the NZCA through their designated liaison member for Tāmaki.		
D	Understand and fulfil the Board's statutory obligations and provide advice or advocate when comments are sought from the Board or opportunities arise.		
E	Contribute to relevant submission opportunities as they arise.		

Part C: Risks and Opportunities

A	A change of Ministerial expectations and priorities in relation to prioritisation of developing revenue-generating systems over environmental outcomes.
B	No visibility of how Te Mana of te Taio will be implemented in the region.
C	No visibility of how agencies are working together to prepare for the effects of climate change on biodiversity.
D	Limited resources to deliver the Board's statutory functions and Ministerial expectations.
E	Resourcing available to the Department to meet the expectations of mana whenua, the wider community and the Government.

11 Opportunities for conservation growth in the Board's rohe

A	Leveraging *Revitalising the Gulf* proposals to support increased marine protection, including local community management of coastal areas.
B	Increasing relevance to attract other sources of funding such as philanthropic avenues to support large scale conservation outcomes.
C	Leadership by mana whenua in the region to achieve environmental outcomes ki uta ki tai.
D	Growing public awareness of the need to take action to address biodiversity loss and the impacts of a warming climate.
E	Increasing public interest in connecting to nature and the benefits of participating in conservation and restoration projects.

Auckland Conservation Board Meeting No. 169	Agenda Item: 11

REPORT

Meeting Date: 10 September 2025

Prepared By: John Galilee, Statutory Manager

Subject: **Aotea Advocacy**

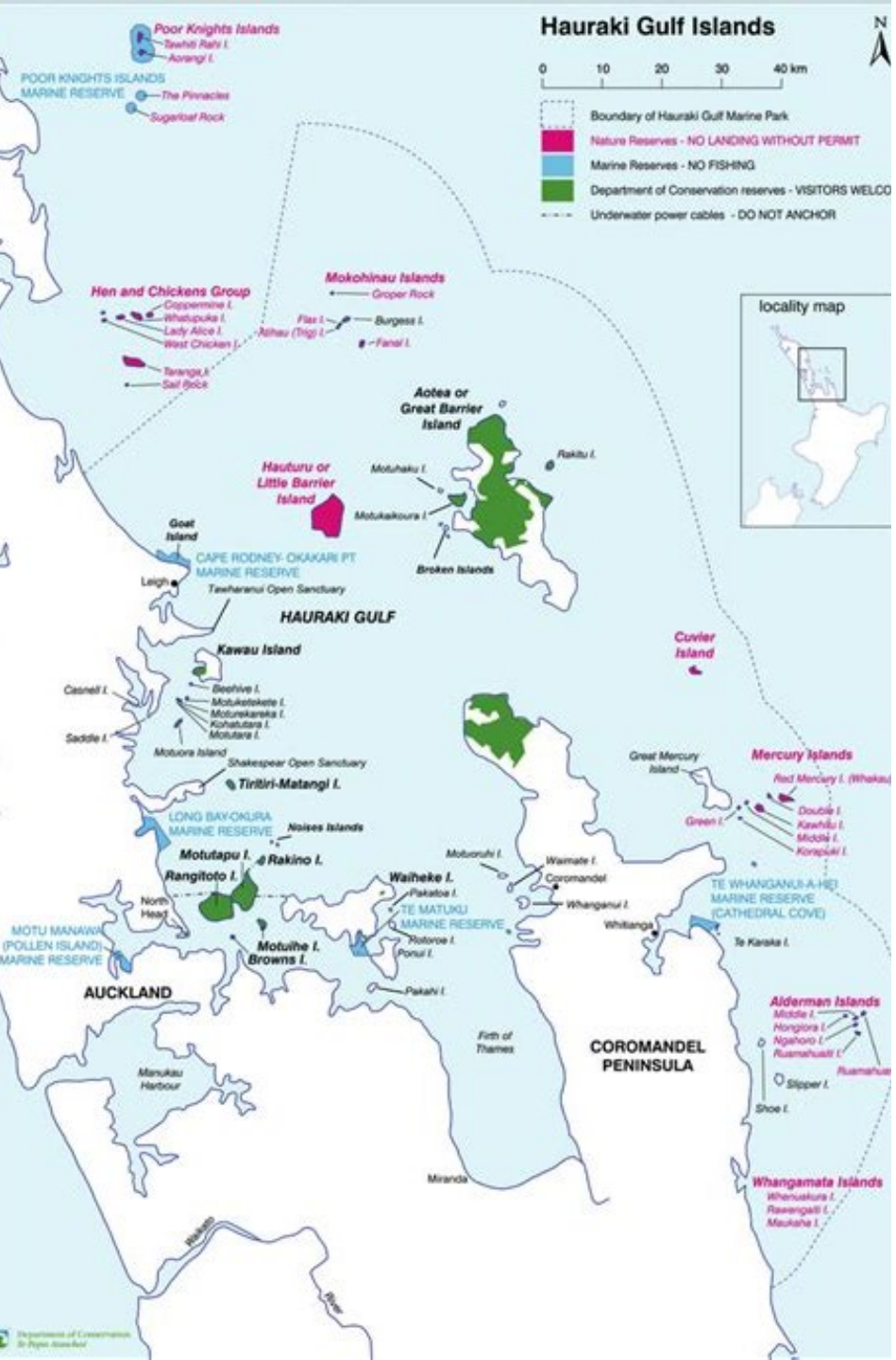
Recommendation or Action Required	It is recommended that the Conservation Board: a) **Note** the contents of this paper. b) **Agree** on steps to further progress the actions agreed at the 28 March 2025 workshop.
Context	As part of the Board's visit to Aotea/Gt Barrier, on 28 March 2025 members held a joint workshop with the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee (ACPAC) to discuss conservation priorities for Aotea. Those present agreed that Aotea had nationally significant biodiversity (and other) values and had enormous potential for restoration and enhancement of these values, if investment into conservation on the island was increased. Following the joint session, at the Board's workshop on 14 May 2025 members discussed further actions relevant to advocacy for Aotea and developed the following actions list: **ACB/ACPAC joint workshop – actions for Aotea** • Organise Minister and local MP (Chloë Swarbrick) to visit Aotea, with a focus on commercial fishing issues, *Caulerpa*, seabirds and its unique biosphere. • Develop and implement a joint advocacy plan focused on key channels – NZCA, DOC, Auckland Council (Councillor Kerryn Leonie), Labour Conservation spokesperson (Priyanca Radhakrishnan) and Labour Aotea representative (Shannon Halbert), using the case for investment identified at the workshop and in the Board's public meeting on 27 March. • Advocate for provisions in the Hauraki Gulf Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Act to protect seabirds from unsustainable fishing practices. • Discuss with DOC's Partnership Manager about the level of interest in conservation on Aotea as part of DOC's agreements with commercial partners.

	At the Board's meeting on 4 June 2025 the Board agreed to fund the preparation of an advocacy plan and investment case to have as collateral when inviting anyone to visit the island and to put before any potential funders. The Board agreed that the Chair commission this material from former Board member Kate Waterhouse, after having first discussed the proposal with the Chair of the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust and the Chair of ACPAC. After receiving their support Kate Waterhouse drafted the collateral – see **attached**. On 23 June 2025 the Auckland and Waikato Conservation Board Chair's co-signed a letter to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Conservation encouraging them to enact the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill. On 16 July 2025 the Board's Acting Chair met with the Department's Partnerships Manager to discuss the case for increased investment into conservation on Aotea and opportunities for putting this case to parties or individuals that the Department was engaging with about options for contributing to conservation. The Chair will lead a discussion about the actions agreed at the 28 March 2025 workshop, progress made to date, and next steps.

THE AOTEA OPPORTUNITY



Rangiwhakaea bay. Photo, C Morton



ABOUT AOTEA GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

- Rich cultural history dating back to 12th century
- 28000ha – only remote offshore islands are larger
- 80kms north east of Auckland, 30 mins by plane, 4.5 hour freight ferry
- 1300 residents
- 60% of Aotea is managed by DOC
- Aotea is 40% of all the conservation land in the Auckland region
- Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea have mana whenua (also of Mokohinau group and Hauturu, pre-settlement)



AOTEA IS UNIQUE

- A biodiversity ark now
- Huge future value for range of species
- Predator free priority
- Deep Maori history
- Kauri and other historical heritage
- Unique visitor experience
- Marine treasures
- All on Auckland’s doorstep

The Cove at Rakitu, Chris Morton

INTACT, CONNECTED ECOSYSTEMS

- NZ's largest tract of forest free from possums, mustelids, deer and goats
- Freshwater stream systems and massive Kaitoke wetland
- Hirakimatā's cloud forest is unique and home to the iconic black petrel.
- A 350km long coastline of more than 50 islets, dunes, coastal cliffs
- Surrounded by Te Moananui-a- Toi's high quality marine habitats and megafauna.



Whangapoua and Te Paparahi from Windy Canyon. Photo, C Morton





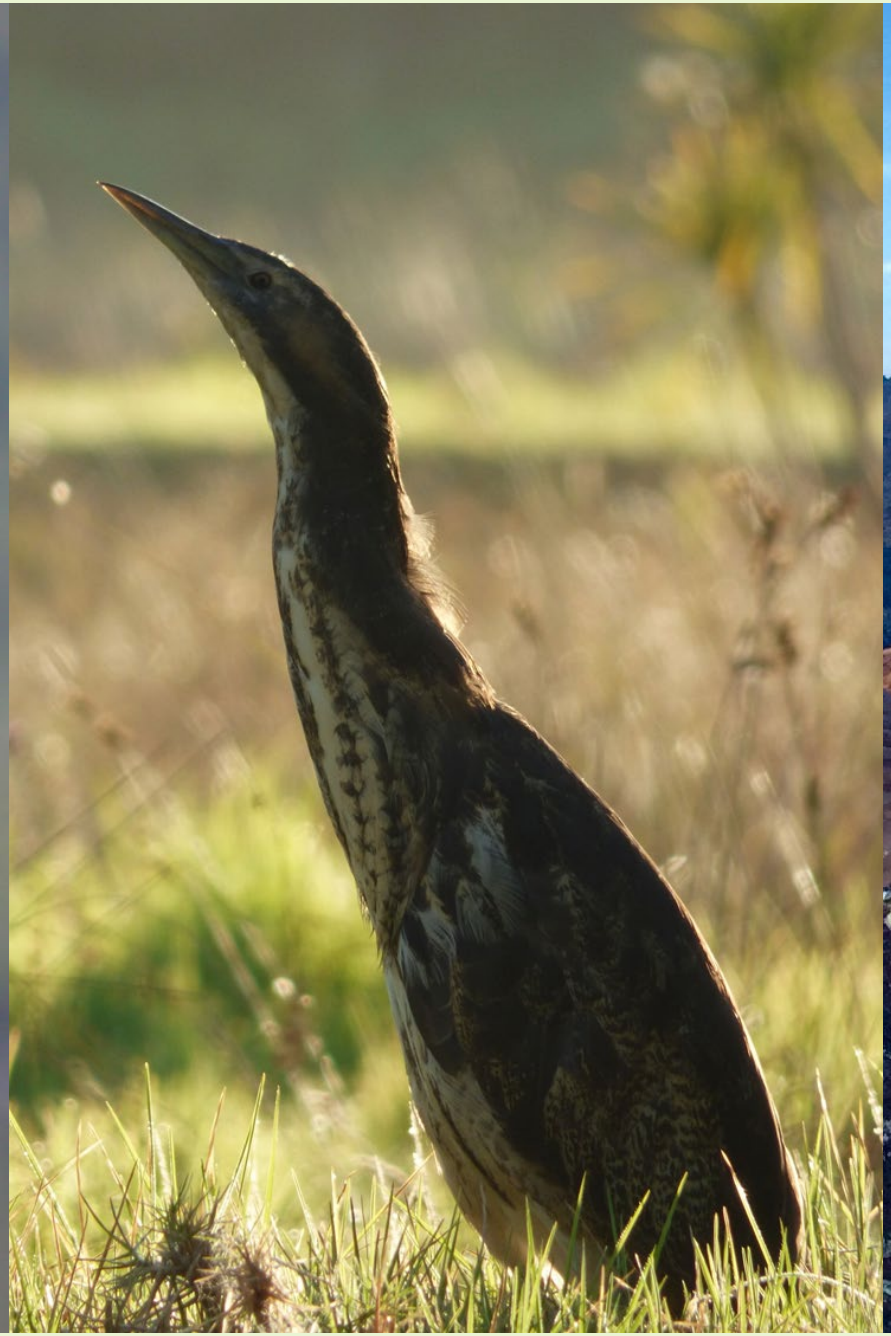
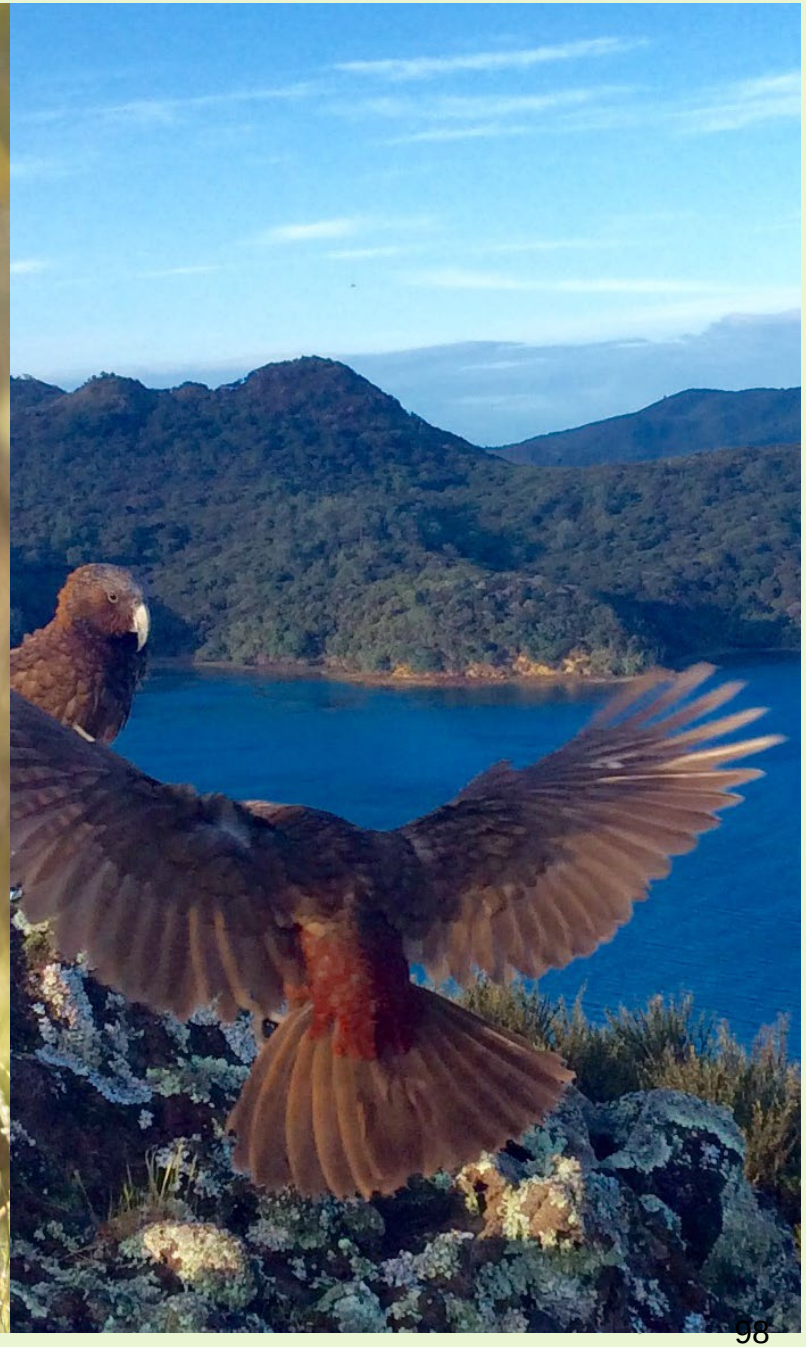
Kohurangi/Kirk's Tree Daisy; Rakitu from Te Paparahi. Photos K Waterhouse



10% OF NZ'S LIZARD SPECIES

- 12 species of geckos and skinks including the endemic Chevron skink
- Hochstetter's frog
- Longtailed bats (and possibly short tailed)
- Paua slug, velvet worm and insect species
- Planned return of Tuatara to Rakitu
- Outside of managed areas lizards are at high risk of predation

Graphic: Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust

Kereru, E Waterhouse; Bittern, Mike Scott; Kaka, Stu Farquhar

DIVERSE BIRD LIFE

A SEABIRD SANCTUARY IN WAITING

NATIONAL STRONGHOLD FOR MANY SPECIES

BUT UNMANAGED AREAS DECIMATED BY SHIP RATS



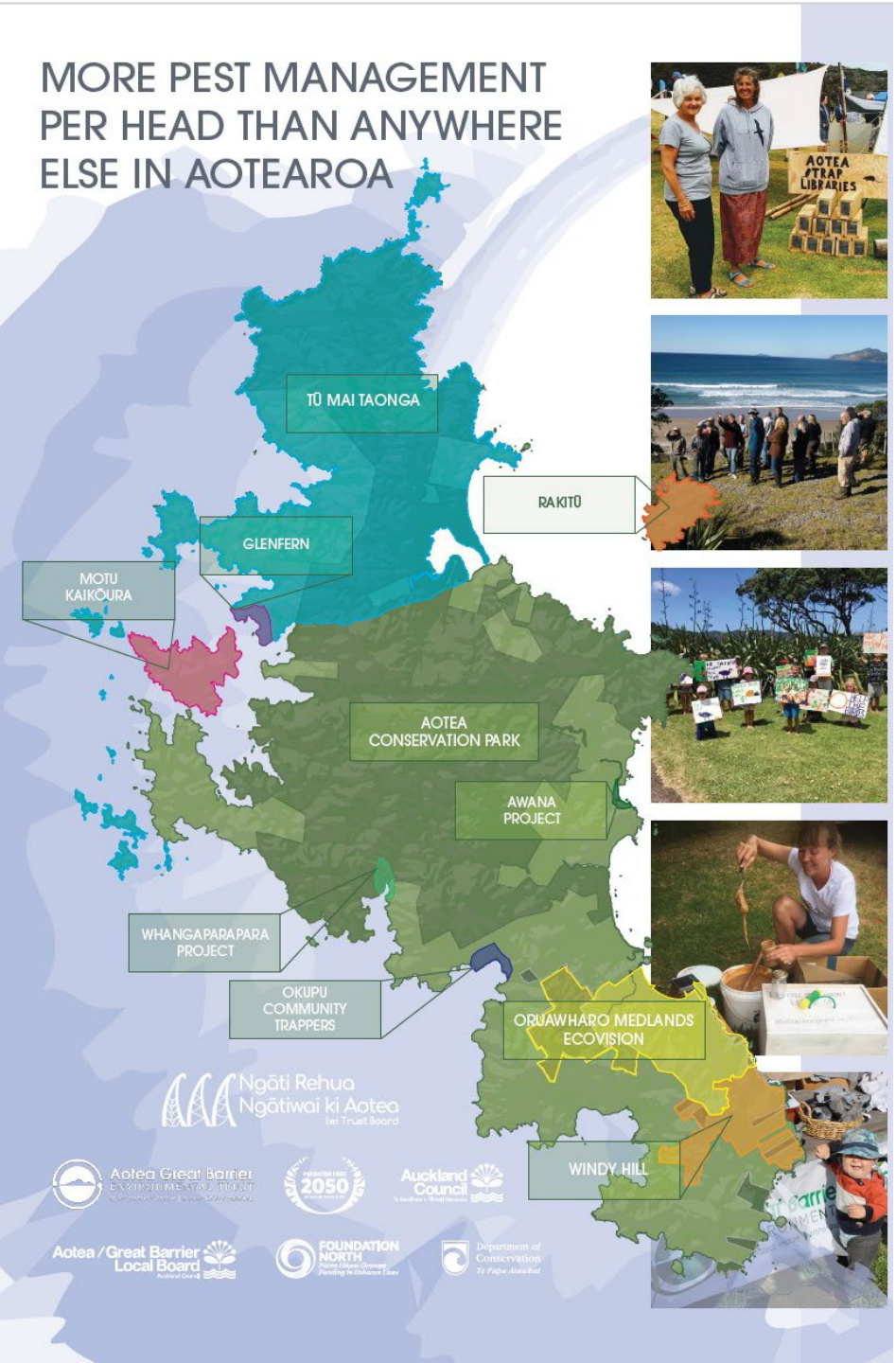
Graphic: Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust



Hauturu from Te Paparahi. Photo, K Waterhouse

TE PAPARAHI

- Of great significance to Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea
- Auckland Council's largest biodiversity focus area (BFA)
- Extensive and continuous forest with intact ecological sequences from the sea, through coastal to cloud forest
- Coastal cliffs 200m high and Aiguilles Island, Needles Point and numerous islets and rock stacks
- Last kōkakō removed in 1994 to Hauturu
- Burrowing seabirds include black and Cook's petrels
- Purchased by Crown in 1980s after Wildlife Service found highly significant lizard/frog populations
- Goats eradicated and feral cats near elimination (Tū Mai Taonga 2025).



AN ACTIVATED, MOTIVATED IWI AND COMMUNITY

- Iwi-led PF2050 funded Tu Mai Taonga aims to eradicate rodents and feral cats
- Windy Hill Sanctuary 50 years of management and research experience
- Significant long term Auckland Council support including for fenced Glenfern Sanctuary
- Multiple community projects across the whole island
- Birds and lizards in back yards and daily life.

Graphic: Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust



AOTEA IS THE GREATEST CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND AT THIS TIME

Kaitoke beach.
Photo, Chris Morton

BEYOND BLACK PETRELS, PATEKE AND CHEVRON SKINKS

DOC'S PRIORITISATION PROCESS HAS NOT RECOGNISED AOTEA'S VALUE

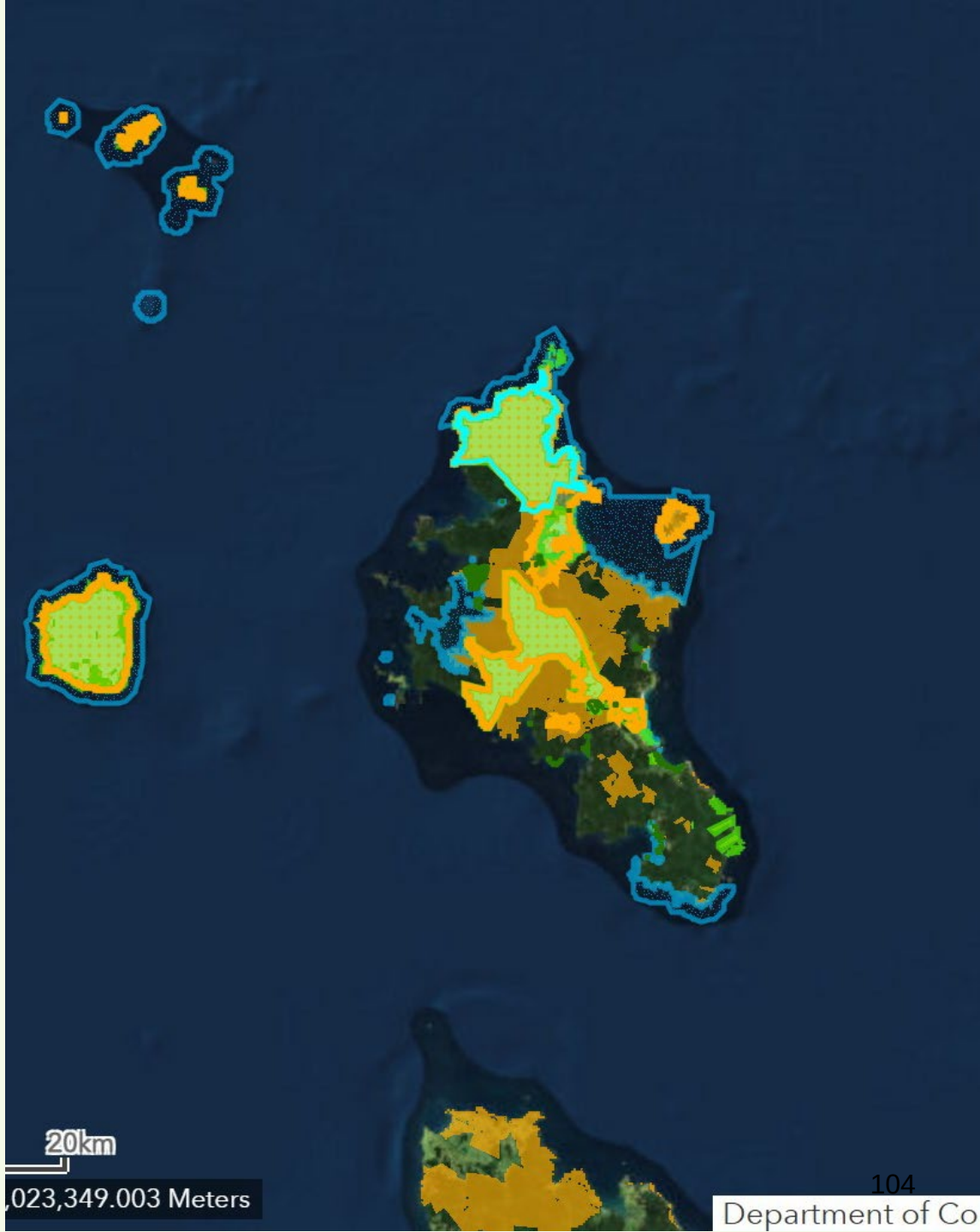


Photo: WMIL, Halema Jameson, DOC

THE CONSERVATION POTENTIAL IS MASSIVE

TE PAPARAHI
IS ANOTHER HAUTURU
IN WAITING

RAKITU IS ANOTHER
MOKOHINAU ISLANDS



Auckland Council mapping showing Aotea, Hauturu and the Mokohinau group, including Biodiversity Focus Areas, DOC Ecosystem Management Areas and marine priority areas



AOTEA'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON DOC

LONG-TERM DEFICIT OF INVESTMENT

DATA GAPS

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE ISLAND

PREDATOR FREE CHANGES

ARE PUTTING THE FUTURE AT RISK

Te Paparahi forest, Photo, Chris Morton

VISITOR OPPORTUNITIES

PROXIMITY TO AUCKLAND

RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE

RANGE OF EXPERIENCES



Aotea Track. Photo, K Waterhouse

PREDATOR FREE 2050 PRIORITISATION OF AOTEA WILL UNLOCK BOTH CONSERVATION AND PARTNERSHIP VALUE



Hirakimata from the Kaitoke wetland.
Photo, Chris Morton

THANK YOU



Hirakimata and Whangapoua from Te Paparahi.
Photo, K Waterhouse

TALKING POINTS – THE AOTEA OPPORTUNITY

Draft

Aotea is unique and its biodiversity value is huge

1. **A 350km long coastline** of more than 50 islets, dunes, coastal cliffs and flourishing, intact marine ecosystems.

2. **Seabird sanctuary** in the heart of the Hauraki Gulf, a global seabird hotspot, home to black petrels/tākoketai, Cooks petrels/tītī, and grey faced petrels/oī, diving petrels/kuaka, and fluttering shearwaters/pakaha, a colony of 6000 Australasian gannets, five species of shag, kororā/blue penguins, Caspian and white fronted terns and both species of gulls.

3. **Lizard intense** - 10% of NZ's species, including the endemic Chevron skink still live here, making it the most lizard-dense site in the country. Tuatara are a kaitiaki of Ngāti Rehua and reintroduction is proposed.

4. **Marine treasure** – surrounded by resident and seasonal whale species, sharks, two species of dolphin, manta rays, orca, whale sharks and a myriad of predatory and smaller fish species, with huge seaweed diversity—some not recorded anywhere else.

5. **Freshwater and wetland oasis** – including longfin and shortfin eels and native fish gone from the mainland, kakahi/freshwater mussels, kōura and wetland birds like bittern, fernbird, spotless crake and the iconic pāteke/brown teal.

6. **Plant and forest diversity** – NZ's largest forest still free of possums and stoats, from the cloud forest of Hirakimatā to kauri and mixed forests, coastal broadleaf and pōhutukawa forest, more than 400 vascular plants including a number found only on Aotea.

7. **Other lesser known taonga creatures** – the Hochstetter's frog, pāua slug, pekapeka/long tailed bats, stunning pūriri moths, land snails, giant earthworms and more.

8. **Ki uta ki tai** - the size and connectedness of these habitats, so close to our largest city, supporting life from ridge to reef.

9. **Birds in backyards** – an inhabited island, yet still a national stronghold for black petrels, pāteke, kākā, banded rail and dotterels, which are part of everyday life for islanders.

An activated, motivated iwi and community

1. Tū Mai Taonga is led by Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea and seeks to restore the island and its people by eradicating feral cats and rodents. It is undertaking one of the largest feral cat removal operations on an inhabited island in the world.

2. The Aotea community undertake more pest management for head of population than any other site in Aotearoa NZ.

3. The level of knowledge and skills in the community is significant, in particular at 50 year old Windy Hill Sanctuary, and Glenfern Regional Park, and the Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust.

4. Auckland Council and the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board have recognised the intent of tangata whenua and the community and allocated Long Term Plan budgets to enable community pest management, restoration and species translocation and research.

Yet DOC's prioritisation process has not historically recognised Aotea's taonga species and places

1. DOC's biodiversity and ecosystem prioritisation frameworks have consistently undervalued the Aotea group, compared with nearby Hauturu and the Mokohinau Islands.

2. Auckland Council BFAs (Biodiversity Focus Areas) show where this agency consider the ecological and biodiversity value to be. Aotea is prioritised for biodiversity and conservation investment in the region.

3. DOC is very influential to non-government funder mindsets – if it is a priority for DOC they are more confident to invest. The opposite is also true.

4. Unfortunately DOC's prioritisation system, currently under review, has prioritised species and ecosystems separately, and it allocates zero value to the island and group as a connected set of relatively intact, temperate coastal ecosystems. Thus, the uniqueness of Aotea cannot be recognised.

The conservation potential of Aotea to expand predator free sanctuaries of the outer Gulf is massive

1. The Department manages 60% of the Aotea Group, and 100% of the Mokohinau Group and Hauturu (Little Barrier).

2. Aotea dwarfs both these islands in scale. **The whole of 2817ha Hauturu little Barrier would fit easily inside 3400ha Te Paparahi,** the wild northern part of Aotea.

3. Predator free **Rakitū at 329ha is twice the size** of the nearby Mokohinau group at 160ha, now a thriving seabird island.

4. The **potential** of these two Aotea sites alone for seabird, lizard, frog, bat and forest bird conservation is yet to be recognised in any DOC prioritisation process.

5. No investment has been made in developing a **sustainable visitor, research or biodiversity credit revenue stream** for Aotea that leverages the unique history, culture, landscape, marine environment or biodiversity so close to Auckland.

A long-term deficit of investment in biodiversity by DOC is putting this at risk

1. Data gaps and perceptions of a "difficult" community have led to a deficit of biodiversity funding for Aotea and the Auckland region over a period of approximately 20 years.

2. A deficit of knowledge in the Department regarding the incredible biodiversity value of all the outer Gulf islands and of Aotea in particular is evident in interactions with staff (with some notable local office exceptions).

3. A small number of species and ecosystems have received maintenance investment over time.

4. Since the creation of the Aotea Conservation Park, there has been little to no monitoring by DOC of lizards, freshwater species, seabirds other than black petrels), or vegetation.

5. Survey work is mainly undertaken by Universities, Auckland Council or community groups, because the island is so accessible and valuable. But DOC does not appear to include this data in prioritisation. For example:
   - Aotea was not listed as a national freshwater priority when that team presented to the ACB.
   - DOC's datasets on Aotea's lizards and frogs, freshwater, birds and forests are incomplete and do not reflect the latest surveys by Auckland Council or other researchers.
   - The value of sequences of connected ecosystems is not being given weight in prioritisation by DOC, whereas Auckland Council does recognise this.
   - DOC Community Fund criteria failed to recognise sites other than historic strongholds on Aotea which DOC recorded, meaning projects with black petrels and pāteke and NZ Dotterel on their sites were not recognised as important habitat.

6. The impact of these data gaps has been both a loss of annual operational funding and a lack of proactivity from DOC to make the most of the conservation potential of Aotea.

7. Aotea is 40% of the DOC conservancy in the Auckland Region, and Auckland's only 2 overnight huts. The island-based team manages the Mokohinau Islands, Rakitū, and the Aotea Track and hosts a member of DOC's Marine team.

8. Over the last 2 decades, very little biodiversity funding has been allocated to Aotea and large project funding has been secured by iwi and the community from other sources. For example:
   - For Rakitū from the DOC Community Fund
   - For Tū Mai Taonga, Jobs For Nature, Auckland Council and Foundation North
   - For Windy Hill, Glenfern and Motu Kaikoura pest free sanctuaries, Auckland Council, DOC Community Fund and a range of other sources
   - For black petrel monitoring from Wildlife Management International and the fishing industry.

9. There is a view amongst conservation leaders that DOC is disproportionately focused on Te Wai Pounamu and uninhabited islands. The ACB, ACPAC, mana whenua and the community have noted the large disparity between project budgets allocated to Rakiura and Rekohu/Chathams and the Auckland Islands and the proposed investment in finishing the job of removing feral cats and rodents from Aotea.

We submit that Aotea is the greatest conservation opportunity in Aotearoa New Zealand at this time. It is a defendable, connected set of valuable ecosystems withing easy reach of Auckland, with mana whenua lead eradication of feral cats underway and highly knowledgeable and supportive landowners and community.

Predator Free 2050 prioritisation of Aotea will unlock both conservation and partnership value

1. Following the disestablishment of PF2050 Ltd and its functions being absorbed into the Department,
2. there is very real risk that the perceptions of the low value of the Aotea group and "difficult" community will persist and influence decision makers.

3. At the same time there is a critical need to build partnerships and secure long-term investment for Aotea – and partners look for DOC endorsement before investing.

4. Failure to recognise the significant opportunity will limit DOC's support for Tū Mai Taonga and put at risk the achievable target of a predator free Aotea, and a predator free Hauraki Gulf.

5. The benefits for investment in Aotea and Tū Mai Taonga are very clear:

    - Builds on and consolidates DOC's investment in Hauturu and the Mokohinau group.
    - Maintains the gains and momentum of the Aotea and other island landscape projects, ensuring public investment to date is not wasted.
    - Feasible outcomes: Aotea could feasibly eradicate feral cats and rodents with current tools if supported to do so.
    - Viable: Aotea is defendable long term.
    - Iwi leadership and partnership in place.
    - Visitable and a unique visitor experience: to demonstrate benefits to the public and stakeholders and to support tourism growth.
    - Innovation centres: Manaaki Whenua specifically identify island landscape projects as priorities to test new tools; and the pathway to social license will be clear.
    - Balances DOC's Predator Free portfolio to include a high-profile northern New Zealand site.
    - Unlike the Southern islands, long term visitor revenue can sustain biosecurity networks.

Auckland Council and Foundation North have invested in this opportunity for the long term. Philanthropic interest has been expressed, but it is contingent on the Department of Conservation confirming that Aotea and the Hauraki Gulf islands are a national priority.

ISLAND COMPARISONS

Source: Analysis of publicly available information as at June 2025

Motu	DOC	Predators	Pop.	Unique taonga	Accessibility	Defendability	Funding to date
Auckland Islands/Maunga-huka ***57,000ha** (46,000 Auckland, 10,000 Adams)*	100%	Feral cats. Feral pigs, mice	N/A - none	*Unique. Seabird breeding grounds. An abundance of albatrosses, penguins and petrels Yellow-eyed penguin, white capped mollymawk Gibson's albatross, sooty shearwater, endemic shag. Many endemic land birds - snipe, teal, rail, dotterel, falcon, tomtit, as well as red and yellow-crowned kākāriki. Largest number of subantarctic invertebrates of all NZ's subantarctic islands.*	*465kms south of Bluff. Landing permit required. Inaccessible to public – annual visitor numbers unavailable (tourist ships).*	*Low reinvasion risk but extremely remote location for ongoing biosecurity and initial eradication operations.*	DOC Joined ICCO in Feb 2025
Rekohu/ Chathams ***79,400ha** on 2 main islands, Pitt & Chatham (71,947ha)*	<5%	Possums, rats - Norway Ship and kiore Feral cats (Pitt Is), feral pigs	c.600	*Unique – c50 endemic plants; seabird and marine mammal stronghold; black robin, taiko, tūturuatu/shore plover, freshwater fish. Highest ecological value concentrated on 12 of 40 smaller islets in the group. Home to almost 10% of NZ's threatened and at-risk species. Note: smallest islets like Little Mangere host most biodiversity taonga.*	*2 hour 15 min flight or 2 days by sea from Timaru or Napier. Annual visitor numbers 2400 in 2022. Small islands not accessible to public, permits required.*	*Low reinvasion risk – human vectors; but ongoing remote biosecurity required on smaller islands.*	DOC Joined ICCO in Feb 2025
Rakiura ***174,600 ha** – main islands and multiple islets*	85%	Norway rats, ship rats, kiore, feral cats, possums, deer	c.400	*Unique. Southern NZ Dotterel, tokoeka, SI Kākā, red and yellow-crowned kākāriki, 3 penguin species, harlequin gecko, seabirds, sealions, seals. Previously kākāpo. Forest sequence and cover, 21 endemic alpine plants, wetlands and diverse freshwater species, dunes, marine ecosystems.*	*20 min flight from Invercargill (2 hour flight from Auckland); 1 hour ferry trip across Foveaux Straight. Annual visitors 20,000+.*	*Low reinvasion risk – human vectors; ongoing remote biosecurity required.*	DOC Joined ICCO in Feb 2025
Aotea Great Barrier ***28,500 ha** and c50 islets including predator free Rakitū, Broken Islands, Kaikoura; plus 2 main island sanctuaries*	60%	Ship rats, feral cats, feral pigs, mice	c.1300	*Unique. Vascular plant diversity (400+ species) , lizard diversity (12 species incl. Chevron skink), Hochstetter's frog. Critical for Northen NZ seabirds, especially black petrel; stronghold for NZ dotterel, kākā, kororā, shags, terns and gulls. Wetland and freshwater birds (pāteke, bittern, spotless crake) and native fish still present in intact systems. Largest possum, mustelid and browser free forest in NZ. Similar vegetation to nearby Hauturu and Mokohinau. Intact coastal cliff, dune and marine habitats and high diversity of marine species due to location near continental shelf and end of East Australian current.*	*30min flight, 4.5 hour freight ferry trip from Auckland, or by private boat. Annual visitors c.40,000.*	*Low reinvasion risk – human vectors; biosecurity network required (non-remote).*	PF2050 Ltd Jobs For Nature Auckland Council Foundation North

For discussion

Motu	*DOC*	*Predators*	*Pop.*	*Unique taonga*	*Accessibility*	*Defendability*	*Funding to date*
Waiheke ***9200 ha***	<1%	Norway rat, ship rat, stoat, feral cats	9100+	*No species unique to Waiheke. Some species return observed by Te Korowai o Waiheke following removal of stoats and increased rat conrol (kaka, bellbird, kākāriki). Giant Kokupu recently confirmed still present. Kiwi translocation completed 2025.*	*1 hour ferry trip from Auckland or private boat. Annual visitors 900,000 annually post-COVID, and up to 40,000 people per day.*	*High reinvasion risk due to distance from mainland and very high visitor traffic and volumes.*	PF2050 Ltd Jobs For Nature Auckland Council Foundation North
Kawau ***2157ha***	10%	Possums, ship rats, feral cats, wallaby (stoats removed).	c.100	*No known species unique to Kawau.* *North Island weka and kiwi populations. Some bird species returning following stoat removal and possum control.*	*8km ferry trip from Sandspit, north of Auckland. Annual visitors tbc.*	*High risk of reinvasion due to proximity to mainland – 1.4kms at shortest point.*	PF2050 Ltd Jobs For Nature Auckland Council The Nature Conservancy

Draft for discussion

AOTEA GREAT BARRIER ISLAND: OVERVIEW OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Updated June 2025

About Aotea

Aotea is the fourth largest island in mainland Aotearoa New Zealand (at 28,000 ha) and is free of introduced mammalian predators except ship rats, mice, kiore, feral cats and feral pigs. Aotea is the largest forest area in NZ free of possums, mustelids and browsing mammals. The freshwater, coastal and marine environments are comparatively free of sediment and pollutants with a wide array of habitat types. Because of these factors, a reliable annual rainfall relative to other Gulf islands, and its location in the northern NZ "seabird highway", Aotea is home to many species no longer found on the mainland. It is a national stronghold for black petrel/tākoketai, pāteke and chevron skink, Hochstetter's frog, NZ Dotterel and many other species. The wide range of intact forest, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems allow taonga species to persist here. However, it is the size and connectedness of these habitats, ki uta ki tai, that distinguishes Aotea and which warrants national recognition and protection.

There are threats to these taonga places and organisms, including introduced pest plant species Argentine Ants, Plague/rainbow skinks and biosecurity incursions leading to new or known pest animals being bought to Aotea inadvertently are a constant concern (eg Red Slider turtle, Norway rat). Climate change warming sea temperatures, overfishing, exotic caulerpa and other invasive marine pests such as Mediterranean Fan Worm, Sea Squirt and Asian Paddle Crab threaten marine ecosystems and the species dependent on them.

Aotea's taonga species and ecosystems

Outstanding wildlife species
Seabirds: main breeding site of black petrels/tākoketai, one of 5 burrowing seabirds still present (also Cooks petrels/tītī, grey faced petrels/oī, diving petrels/kuaka, and fluttering shearwaters/pakaha, largest gannet colony in Auckland (6000 birds) and possibly NZ, stronghold for terns, gulls and 5 species of shag. Return of other species (see list below) likely following removal of ship rats and feral cats and feral pig control.
Forest birds: stronghold for North Island kākā, kererū, red-crowned kākāriki. NI robins/toutouwai translocated in early 2000's and now established at Hirakimatā. Tīeke returned to Rakitū in June 2025, with further translocations planned. Weka still present on Rakitū.
Reptiles: stronghold of Chevron skink/niho taniwha; 11 possibly 12 other species of skinks and geckos (the highest density of lizard species in NZ) including the large Duvaucel's gecko; tuatara known to persist into 20th century and translocation to Rakitū has been proposed. **Hochstetter's frog:** the only island population in NZ; possibly genetically distinct from mainland populations – survey in progress, also for Great Barrier frog.
Freshwater fish, longfin and shortfin eels, kakahi and koura are still found in many streams. DOC GIS records inanga, banded kokopu, plus bluegill bully, common, redfin and giant bully. *(Note: further data to come from Auckland Council 3 Year surveys in progress)*
Bats: pekapeka/long tailed bats (short-tailed bat may also be present as known on neighbouring Hauturu/Little Barrier) **Invertebrates:** paua slug, carabid beetle *Mecodema* (possibly endemic); Giant Cave Weta *Gymnoplectron acanthocera,* Giant Weta (tbc), Peripatus

Outstanding wildlife species
Wetland and grassland birds: national pāteke stronghold, banded rail are very common; also breeding matuku/Australasian bittern, NZ pipit, fernbird, and spotless crake
Shorebirds: Nationally important New Zealand dotterel breeding site, reef heron, non-breeding site for godwits/kuaka, wrybills, knots, banded dotterels, Pacific golden plover, Royal spoonbill
Plants: more than 400 vascular plants recorded; endemic species include Great Barrier kanuka *kanzea sinclairii and Olearia allomii,* Mawhai *(Sicyos australis),*stronghold for *Lepidium oleraceum* and *Pimelea Tomentosa* at Windy Hill, and koru (*Lobelia physaloides*) on Rakitū, at southern limit of distribution. Coastal morning glory - Ipomoea cairica in dunes.
Marine megafauna: In a global Important Shark And Ray Area (ISRA) for whale shark, manta ray, spine-tailed devil ray, and multiple shark species; also orca, bottlenose and common dolphins, Bryde's, Humpback, Pilot, Blue and Southern Right whales, green turtles, marlin.
Reef species: *data to come from surveys in progress;* black coral colonies, extremely high seaweed diversity (survey pending), encrusting species.

Compiled by Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust 2024/25 from sources

Outstanding Ecosystems
1. **Hirakimatā and Mt Young:** unmodified cloud forest and unbroken succession, ki uta ki tai, east to the Kaitoke wetland and west over Mt Young to Whangaparapara. One of the most biodiverse locations in the Auckland region.
2. **Forest quality and size:** intact coastal broadleaf forests (in particular approximately 4000ha in Te Paparahi) including taraire, kohekohe, pūriri, podocarp species, rata, pōhutukawa and nikau. Large areas of regenerating kauri forest and unbroken ridge to reef sequences at Kaitoke and Mt Young. Only rodents, feral pigs and feral cats are present.
3. **Freshwater systems:** the highest concentration and number of unmodified streams in the Auckland region; currently with no known freshwater pests or pest plants present.
4. **Wetlands:** Kaitoke the largest unmodified wetland in the Auckland region, also significant wetland areas at Whangapoua, Awana, Ahumata and Oruawharo/Medlands.
5. **Estuaries and lagoons:** Whangapoua is the largest unmodified estuary in the Auckland region; other east coast tidal lagoons at Awana, Kaitoke and Oruawharo/Medlands
6. **Dunes:** large intact dune systems including dune lakes at Whangapoua/Okiwi spit, Kaitoke and Oruawharo/Medlands
7. **Basal cliffs:** south of Medlands; grey-faced petrel/oi known to be present; lizard species and vegetation tbc but likely to include at risk species
8. **Islands and rock stacks**: of the c.50, several of the Broken Islands are thought never to have had rodents present; Rakitū is predator free (since 2019); Needles islands and others are yet to be formally surveyed
9. **Marine environment:** low sediment loads, manta ray breeding area, Port Fitzroy (AUP)
10. **Reef systems**: the north east coast was deemed sufficiently valuable for Marine Reserve status although this proposal did not proceed

Compiled by Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust 2024/25 from sources

AOTEA THE SEABIRD ISLAND: SPECIES SUMMARY

The Aotea group is made up of more than 50 islands and islets and lies in the Northern New Zealand "seabird highway", between the Poor Knights and Mokohinau Group to the north, Hauturu-o-Toi and the Hen and Chickens to the west, and Cuvier and the Mercury group to the south. Despite the

presence of ship rats and feral cats, five species of burrowing seabirds, and nine other species still breed on Aotea. The island is the national stronghold of the takoketai or black petrel.

Stronghold species today	***Still present today but depleted***	***Likely to have been present historically (extirpated by rats)***
Burrowing seabirds Black petrel/tākoketai *Others* Australasian gannet/tākapu Little blue penguin/kororā Black-backed gull	*Burrowing seabirds* Grey faced petrel/ōi Cooks petrel/tītī Diving petrel/kuaka Fluttering shearwater/pakahā *Others* Red-billed gull White-fronted tern Caspian tern /tara nui Pied shag Little shag Black shag	*Burrowing seabirds* White-faced storm petrel/takahikare NZ Storm Petrel/ takahikare-raro Pycroft's petrel Fairy prion/tītī wainui Little shearwater/totorore Flesh-footed shearwater/toanui Sooty shearwater Black-winged petrel *Others* New Zealand fairy tern / tara iti Spotted shag Grey noddy

Source: Birds of Aotea, Ogden et al, Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust, 2023; Graeme Taylor, personal communications 2023

A predator free Aotea is the single most significant action that can be taken to protect seabirds in northern New Zealand and to support their recovery (Whitehead et al, Threats to the Seabirds of Northern NZ, 2021), alongside keeping existing seabird breeding islands predator-free.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REFERENCES

Eruera Nathan, Niklas Erikson and Annamarie Clough, Auckland Council Environmental Services Team

Sue Moore and Graeme Taylor, Department of Conservation

John Ogden and Judy Gilbert, Windy Hill Sanctuary

Lotte McIntyre, Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision

Note: this is a working document and will be updated as new data becomes available.

Auckland Conservation Board
Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau

4 June 2025 Meeting

held at Meeting Room 5, Studio One Toi Tū, 1 Ponsonby Road, Grey Lynn, Auckland
on Wednesday 4 June 2025 at 9am

Unconfirmed Minutes

PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS
Rahul Chopra (via MS Teams)
Repeka George-Koteka
Alan Goldman
Nerissa Henry
Shane Lavery (Deputy Chair)
Gael Ogilvie (Chairperson)
Chris Severne
Fred Wilson (via MS Teams)

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Alex Rogers, Director Regional Operations, Auckland
John Galilee, Statutory Manager, Auckland
Emma Smith, Board Support Officer, Auckland
Kirsty Prior, Operations Manager - Marine, Auckland
Rebecca Rush, Operations Manager – Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland (for Item 3)
Emma Kearney, Technical Advisor - Marine Ecosystems, Auckland

MANUHIRI
Katina Conomos, Mussell Reef Restoration Trust (for Item 2)
Kathryn Lister, Fisheries New Zealand (via MS Teams) (for Item 4)
Steve Halley, Fisheries New Zealand (via MS Teams) (for Item 4)
Michael Ngatai, Chair, Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee (for Item 5)

APOLOGIES:
Achyut Aryal
Mervyn Kerehoma
Tori Ngataki
Ina Kara-France, NZ Conservation Authority
Kat Lane, Operations Manager – Inner Islands, DOC

Agenda item 1 – Welcome / Karakia Whakawhanaungatanga

The meeting opened at 9.10am with a karakia by Alex Rogers.

Chair, Gael Ogilvie, welcomed all members and guests to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Achyut Aryal
Mervyn Kerehoma
Tori Ngataki
Ina Kara-France, NZ Conservation Authority
Kat Lane, Operations Manager – Inner Islands, DOC

The agenda was confirmed.

Gael Ogilvie acknowledged the changes made to the Department of Conservation's (DOC) Departmental Reports to reduce labour intensive work on staff (see Item 3).

No conflicts of interest were received. The Board Support Officer advised there had been some minor changes to the COI form to better capture information to meet DOC's reporting requirements.

Agenda item 2 – Public Forum

Gael Ogilvie welcomed Katina Conomos from Revive Our Gulf, who delivered a presentation on the work of the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust (MRRT).

Katina emphasized the importance of community collaboration in restoration efforts, particularly given the variability of funding. She provided historical context on the decline of kūtai (mussels) in the Hauraki Gulf due to over-harvesting, noting the significant damage caused by past dredging practices. Restoration activities are ongoing and in partnership with iwi, including the establishment of new kūtai beds. Seven months into the project, the team is now analysing data to assess ecological outcomes. Sedimentation is a big issue preventing survival and recruitment in the trial beds.

Members of the Auckland Conservation Board (ACB) introduced themselves to Katina, sharing their backgrounds and involvement in conservation.

Katina also spoke to the complexities of working in marine environments, highlighting the increasingly dynamic and changing nature of ocean ecosystems and the many pressures on the Gulf. She stressed the importance of strategic navigation in protecting the Gulf and shared that MRRT is exploring ways to support natural processes to further advance kūtai restoration.

Alex Rogers compared the work to similar international projects, such as Manhattan's Billion Oyster Project, which also focuses on restoring marine life in urban areas.

In response to a question about how the Board can help, Katina noted that the trials are not protected so having an opportunity to do trials in the new High Protection Areas would help. Being able to experiment where remnant kūtai beds remain would be valuable. Encouraging people to see what is happening underwater and letters of support will also help.

10:30am – Members took a short break for morning tea.

10:45am – Meeting resumed.

Agenda item 3 - Departmental Reports

Operations Director's Report

Alex Rogers spoke to his Director's Report, highlighting the successful translocation of ten kiwi to Waiheke Island. Each bird has been geotagged, and protocols have been established to mitigate risks and ensure their safety.

He also provided an overview of the Department's recent organisational restructure, acknowledging the significant challenges it has posed for staff, and the impending release of tīeke to Rakitū in the next week. Gael Ogilvie noted the pressures currently facing the Department of Conservation (DOC), while Chris Severne observed that these challenges are prompting communities to take a more active role in conservation efforts.

Operations District Reports

Bec Rush provided an update on the development of a Deed of Acknowledgement under the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act. She reported that approximately two-thirds of the submissions received were in support of the Act's implementation. Bec also noted that Te Kawerau ā Maki have over several years been actively pushing for implementation of this part of the Act.

She also noted that tara-iti have had a good breeding season.

Agenda item 4 - Marine and Seabird Protection

Update on Hauraki Gulf marine protection legislation and implementation

Kirsty Prior spoke to a presentation which provided an overview of the newly established Marine Operations District within the Department of Conservation (DOC), which encompasses a broad geographic area across the Gulf. John Galilee followed with a reflection on the Sea Change process, which led to the Government's response Revitalising the Gulf. Sea Change resulted in a series of recommendations for both local and central government, including the development of new marine protected areas. The Hauraki Gulf Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill is aimed at safeguarding 19 new designated marine protected areas within the Hauraki Gulf, which includes extensions to two existing marine reserves.

Each protected area under the proposed legislation will have distinct objectives, with the overarching goal of enhancing biodiversity. Kirsty highlighted the complexities involved in managing seafloor protection zones and emphasized the challenges related to compliance and enforcement of the new legislation, such as marking the locations of the new protected areas and informing the public of their existence and the rules that apply.

Emma Kearney provided an update on baseline surveys to monitor the state of biodiversity in the new High Protection Areas and noted that research efforts are still in the preliminary stages. There is a varying quality and amount of data for the different features that are being monitored.

Kirsty also mentioned that the Marine Protection Bill is currently awaiting its third reading in Parliament, with potential passage expected by July.

Members discussed the possibility of drafting a letter of support for the Bill to the Minister of Conservation, jointly with the Waikato Conservation Board, to help advance the legislation and mitigate further delays in its implementation.

Action: write a letter to the Minister of Conservation expressing support for the early passage of the Hauraki Gulf Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill.

Fisheries Act reforms & update on Hauraki Gulf fisheries management

Steve Halley delivered a presentation on the Fisheries Act reforms. He provided an update on the current state of fisheries management in the Hauraki Gulf and outlined key aspects of the submissions process related to the reforms. Fisheries NZ received circa 20,000 submissions on the proposals, a large majority of which were form submissions. A range of views were expressed in submissions. Iwi views were mixed.

He explained that the proposals were intended to allow the system to respond more quickly, but not at the expense of sustainability of stocks. The entire management of fisheries is predicated on sustainability, and the intention is not to change this but to improve how sustainability is achieved. They also include tools for managing fisheries at a finer scale. There is a need to be cautious when managing stocks with limited information, and a need to look at ecosystem function and sustainability.

Kathryn Lister followed with a presentation on the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan, which was approved in 2023, and its implementation. She emphasized that the team's efforts have been closely aligned with DOC's work to prepare for enactment of marine protection under the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill.

She discussed the development of guidelines for identifying Habitats of Particular Significance (HOPS) and noted that the first set of such habitats will soon be published. She noted that Fisheries NZ had undertaken consultation on trawl corridors in the Hauraki Gulf but that the Minister of Oceans & Fisheries had stated that proceeding with those proposals was not a priority for the Government. She noted that kina barrens was a strong focus for the Minister and that the inner Gulf had been closed for the harvesting of crayfish. The implications for the wider

Gulf and Northland's east coast were being considered. They are commissioning research on predators of kina.

She also noted that a range of management strategies and scientific initiatives are either proposed or already underway to address the issue of kina barrens, including mapping their extent. She also noted they had closed the scallop fishery in the Gulf and were undertaking research into forage fish stocks.

Nerissa Henry raised concerns regarding the level of support provided to mana whenua in fulfilling their fisheries-related responsibilities and aspirations. She highlighted the burden placed on iwi to resolve issues they did not create. Kathryn advised that funding is sometimes provided on a case-by-case basis.

Members engaged in a discussion about the advisory body responsible for overseeing the implementation of marine protection initiatives.

Gael Ogilvie acknowledged the significant progress made by both the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Fisheries New Zealand in managing the region's marine environment.

12:50 Members took a short break for lunch.

1.26pm Meeting resumed.

Agenda item 5 – Aotea Advocacy

Gael Ogilvie noted that there were four key actions she recorded from the joint workshop with the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee held on 28 March on Aotea/Gt Barrier, including inviting the Minister of Conservation to visit the island. She noted Fletcher Beasley's advice that a visit would be better if timed to coincide with a significant event, such as a proposed forthcoming species translocation tentatively scheduled for May/June 2026 which may present an opportunity to engage the Minister.

Gael also noted a second action was to invite key representatives of Auckland Council to visit the island, but that prior to that an advocacy plan and investment case needed to be developed. She proposed that Kate Waterhouse be engaged to develop the advocacy plan and investment case for greater investment into conservation on Aotea and why the island is a priority. This initiative received support from Board members and from Michael Ngatai, representing the ACPAC perspective.

Action: Gael Ogilvie to discuss with Fletcher Beazley (Chair Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust) the proposal to contract Kate Waterhouse to prepare the advocacy plan and investment case and then contact Kate Waterhouse.

Other actions from the March workshop were to support increased marine protection around Aotea and for Micheal Ngatai and herself to discuss the investment case with a representative from DOC's Partnerships team.

Action: John Galilee to coordinate a meeting involving DOC Partnerships Manager Jen Malcolm, outgoing ACPAC Chair Michael Ngatai, and Acting ACB Chair Shane Lavery.

Michael Ngatai provided an update on ACPAC's recent meeting held on Friday, 30 May 2025, which marked his final meeting as Chair ahead of new appointments by the Minister. He thanked the Board for visiting Aotea in March and supported the commitments agreed to at the joint workshop on 28 March.

Michael has submitted his final annual report to the Minister of Conservation in his capacity as outgoing Chair and will share this with Gael. He emphasized ACPAC's efforts to raise the profile of Aotea and expressed optimism about future advocacy opportunities, particularly through collaboration between ACB and ACPAC.

Michael clarified that ACPAC members' terms do not automatically continue even if no replacement members have been appointed, and their terms expire. However, he expressed willingness to continue serving as a link between ACB and ACPAC to support ongoing communication between the groups, pending the appointment of the new ACPAC committee.

John Galilee noted that ACPAC is appointed under different legislative provisions than ACB, which accounts for the difference in what happens when their terms expire.

Gael noted that there was an opportunity for Michael to be involved in the development of the investment case.

Agenda item 6 – Meeting Administration Pt 2

Previous meeting minutes

The minutes from the 27 March 2025 meeting were taken as read.

The Board **resolved** to **approve** the: Minutes from Previous Meeting of 27 March 2025 Chris Severne/ Shane Lavery / **Carried**

Actions arising

Item 5.1 (4 Dec 2024) – Gael Ogilvie proposed that this Action be deleted and replaced with the following new Actions:

Action: invite mana whenua at place to provide a cultural induction to their area at each Board meeting.

Action: request an annual update from the DOC Treaty Settlements team on progress towards implementation of Treaty settlements in the region.

Item 5.12 (4 Dec 2024) – Gael proposed to remove this action, noting there is more relevant work happening in the marine/climate change space. Megan Carbines from Auckland Council has agreed to present to the Board at the August 13 workshop about changes in the Hauraki Gulf marine environment.

Item 5.15 (4 Dec 2024) – Remove action. Gael Ogilvie will instead ask members to volunteer as items of work come into the Board that they would like to lead or be involved in.

Item 5.1 (25 Sept 2024) – Gael advised that she had spoken to Rob Chappell, Chair Waikato Conservation Board, about a joint meeting and a meeting has been scheduled with Waikato Conservation Board (WCB) for 10 September 2025 in Pūkorokoro/Miranda. Members discussed the value of sharing each Board's goals ahead of the joint meeting.

ACTION: Board Support Officer to confirm with WCB counterpart that Chris Severne has been added as ACB liaison to WCB and will be invited to future meetings.

ACTION: Board Support Officer will seek a copy of the WCB Annual Workplan or priorities to share with Members ahead of the joint meeting in September.

Item 5.1 (15 March 2024) – Remove action. Neither Gael Ogilvie nor John Galilee are aware if the chairs liaison group is still active.

Confirmation of Correspondence

Inwards/outwards correspondence was received.

John Galilee provided an update on the Waste Management NZ Ltd. appeals in relation to consents for the proposed regional landfill in Wayby Valley.

The Board **resolved** that the correspondence schedule be approved. Chris Severne/ Shane Lavery / **Carried**

Financial Report

Members noted the positive variance of $8k in the Year-to-Date figures. Gael Ogilvie reminded members to submit claims for Board related work. The Board Support Officer reminded members to submit any claims for this financial year by COB 13 June to make end of financial year processing deadlines with DOC's finance team.

Agenda item 7 – Fast-track Approvals Act update

Members discussed the first request the Board has received from an Expert Panel under the Fast-track Approvals Act to provide comments on the application from Port of Auckland Ltd. (POAL) for extensions to Bledisloe and Fergusson wharves, for which Chris Severne is the lead. John Galilee reminded members that the legislation is facilitative of infrastructure and development so the Board will need to have a strong rationale if it wishes to oppose any applications under the Act.

ACTION: John Galilee to obtain any advice about the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act and how best to frame submissions in that context.

Members discussed the value of obtaining factual information from DOC about the conservation values of places subject to applications under the Act, and from other sources if need be. John Galilee explained why DOC was not able to share its draft comments on applications with the Board and noted that the EPA will not be providing a template for comments.

ACTION: John Galilee to set up a meeting between the Statutory Sub-Committee and a DOC staff member who can provide some factual information about conservation values in relation to the POAL fast track application.

Agenda item 8 – Liaison Updates

Adjoining conservation boards

Chris Severne was confirmed as the liaison member to the Waikato Conservation Board. Nerissa Henry advised that she would attend an upcoming meeting of the Te Hiku Conservation Board and will report back to the Board. Rahul Chopra advised he has not received any invitations to Northland Conservation Board meetings.

ACTION: BSO to advise liaison members when the next Waikato and Northland Conservation Board meetings will be held.

Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council Liaison Update

Shane Lavery provided a verbal update on Fish and Game. He noted that there has been a concerted effort on enforcing compliance over the last 12 months, with several prosecutions undertaken in response to non-compliance issues.

ACPAC

Covered under Agenda item 5.

Agenda item 8 – Other

General Business

Gael Ogilvie invited expressions of interest from members to attend the upcoming annual Tara Iti Hui scheduled for 16 June 2025. Chris Severne volunteered to attend on behalf of the Board.

Gael Ogilvie advised that she will be away between 9 June to 6 August 2025, and in her place Shane Lavery will be acting Chair.

Shane Lavery reminded members that DOC had issued two discussion documents, one being a draft implementation plan for Te Mana o te Taio the Aotearoa NZ Biodiversity Strategy, and other being a review of the Predator Free 2050 Strategy. There was some discussion by members around the impact of feral cats on conservation and that these had bene excluded from the list of predators to be targeted in the Predator Free 20250 review document.

ACTION: Shane Lavery to prepare draft submissions on the two discussion documents, the draft implementation plan for Te Mana o te Taio the Aotearoa NZ Biodiversity Strategy, and the review of the Predator Free 2050 Strategy.

Members also discussed current statutory sub-committee work and triggers, including fast track applications.

Future Meeting Schedule

The Board Support Officer provided a brief update on the Board's future meeting schedule. Gael Ogilvie expressed a preference for the December meeting to be held somewhere around the Manukau Harbour and to invite the Manukau Harbour Forum to present to the Board.

Climate Change & Business Conference attendance

Gael Ogilvie asked for volunteers to attend the upcoming Climate Change & Business Conference; Rahul Chopra indicated he will consider attending on behalf of the Board.

ACTION: Rahul Chopra to register attendance at the Climate Change & Business Conference and to apply for the discounted NGO rate.

Agenda Item 9 - Karakia whakawatea

The meeting formally closed at 3.18pm with a karakia by Nerissa Henry.

To be approved as a true and correct record of the Board meeting held on 4 June 2025.

Gael Ogilvie
Chair

Auckland Conservation Board Meeting No. 169	Agenda Item: 12

REPORT

Meeting Date: 10 September 2025

Prepared By: John Galilee, Statutory Manager

Subject: **Open actions from previous meetings**

This report lists actions open as at 2 September 2025. It excludes open actions of an administrative nature.

Meeting 4 June 2025	*7.1*	*John Galilee to obtain any advice about the purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act and how best to frame submissions in that context.*	
Meeting 25 September 2024	*5.1*	*Members to progress work to give effect to the shared goals agreed between the Auckland and Waikato Conservation Boards at their joint meeting on 15 March, including reference to Kate Waterhouse's discussion paper.*	In progress - planned for further discussion at the Board meeting on 10 Sep at Pūkorokoro/Miranda.

Auckland Conservation Board Meeting No. 169	Agenda Item: 12

REPORT

Meeting Date: 10 September 2025

Prepared By: Emma Smith, Board Support Officer

Subject: **Confirmation of Correspondence**

INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE period from 20 May 2025 to 22 Aug 2025 [14271 to 14304]				
#	**Received**	**From**	**Topic**	**Status**
14272	23/05/2025	Environment Court	Waste Management landfill	Email
14273	27/05/2025	Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi	Dawn Chorus Newsletter	Email
14274	28/05/2025	EPA	Bledisloe North Wharf and Fergusson North Berth Extension	Email
14275	30/05/2025	NZTA	Northland Corridor Newsletter	Email
14276	04/06/2025	NZCA	Public papers for meeting 11-12 June	Email
14277	06-27/06/2025	Waste Management	17 items - Wayby Valley landfill appeals	Email
14278	13/06/2025	DOC	Predator Free 2050	Email
14279	23/06/2025	DOC tara-iti team	Tara-iti Tales #42	Email
14280	25/06/2025	NZTA	Northland corridor June Newsletter	Email
14281	27/06/2025-10/07/2025	Waste Management	15 items - Wayby Valley landfill appeals	Email
14282	07/07/2025	Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi	July Newsletter	Email
14283	10/07/2025	Rewild Aotearoa	Invasive Browser Free Aotearoa Rewild opportunity	Email
14284	11/07/2025	Game Animal Council	The Stalk Winter 2025	Email
14285	11-25/07/2025	Waste Management	19 x items - Wayby Valley landfill appeals	Email
14286	11/07/2025	EPA Fast-track team	Minute 4 of the Bledisloe North Wharf and Fergusson North Berth Extension Expert Consenting Panel	Email
14287	11/07/2025	DOC	Early notification re Consultation on a New National Conservation Policy Statement	Email
14288	13/07/2025	Game Animal Council	Hunters – have your voices heard on the future management of highly valued game animal herds	Email
14289	14/07/2025	MoC	Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill	Email

14290	15/07/2025	DOC	Conservation Board's newsletter Issue 36 July 2025	Email
14291	15/07/2025	NZCA	Chair's letter to Boards	Email
14292	22/07/2025	Game Animal Council	Last chance for hunters to have their say on big game Bill	Email
14293	24/07/2025	DOC tara-iti team	Tara-iti Tales #43	Email
14294	24/07/2025	Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board	Submission Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill	Email
14295	24/07/2025	Southland Conservation Board	Submission Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill	Email
14296	24/07/2025	DOC	National Conservation Policy Statement Consultation Materials	Email
14297	29/07-08/08/2025	Waste Management	9 items - Wayby Valley landfill appeals	Email
14298	28/07/2025	NZTA	Northland Corridor July 2025 update	Email
14299	29/07/2025	Game Animal Council	NZ Game Animal Council seeks a modern approach to game animal management	Email
14300	29/07-08/08/2025	Waste Management	15 items - Wayby Valley landfill appeals	Email
14301	18/08/2025	Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi	Dawn Chorus Aug 2025	Email
14302	20/08/2025	EPA	Invitation to comment - Rangitoopuni Developments Limited Partnership	Email
14303	20/08/2025	DOC tara-iti team	Tara-iti Tales #44	Email
14304	21/08/2025	EPA	Decision on application by Port of Auckland Limited	Email

OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE period from 20 May 2025 to 22 Aug 2025 [2063 to 2073]				
2063	23/06/2025	DOC	Joint ACB/WCB Support for Speedy Passage of the Hauraki Gulf/Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill	Email
2064	10/06/2025	DOC	ACB submission to the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Regulatory Standards Bill	Email
2065	24/07/2025	Game Animal Council	Herds of Special Interest Amendment Bill	Email
2066	22/08/2025	DOC	ACB submission on proposed National Conservation Policy Statement	Email
2067	23/06/2025	PM & MOC	Hauraki Gulf Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill	Email

2068	26/05/2025	Levonne Scott	Transfer of OIA request	Email
2069	26/05/2025	DOC	Transfer of OIA request	Email
2070	26/06/2025	EPA Fast-track team	Bledisloe North Wharf and Fergusson North Berth Extension	Email
2071	30/06/2025	DOC	Predator Free 2050 Strategy Review	Email
2072	30/06/2025	DOC	Implementation plan for Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy	Email
2073	22/08/2025	DOC	Comments proposed National Conservation Policy Statement	Email

Recommendation or Action Required	It is recommended that the Conservation Board: a) **Note** the Inwards Correspondence b) **Approve** the Outwards Correspondence

Auckland Conservation Board Meeting No. 169	Agenda Item: 12

REPORT

Meeting Date: 10 September 2025

Prepared By: Helen Duff, Business Accountant

Subject: **Financial Report**

Recommendation or Action Required	It is recommended that the Conservation Board: a) **Note** the contents of this paper

Table 1:

Auckland Conservation Board

Report 2 months to 28th August 2025

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance	Full Year Budget
Board fees	250	3,083	2,833	18,500
Advocacy Fees	0	250	250	1,500
Legal Fees	0	0	0	0
Consultancy and Professional Services	0	583	583	3,500
Travel and Accommodation	0	1,167	1,167	7,000
Hospitality and events	0	500	500	3,000
Printing & Publication	0	250	250	1,500
Total	**250**	**5,833**	**5,583**	**35,000**